This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

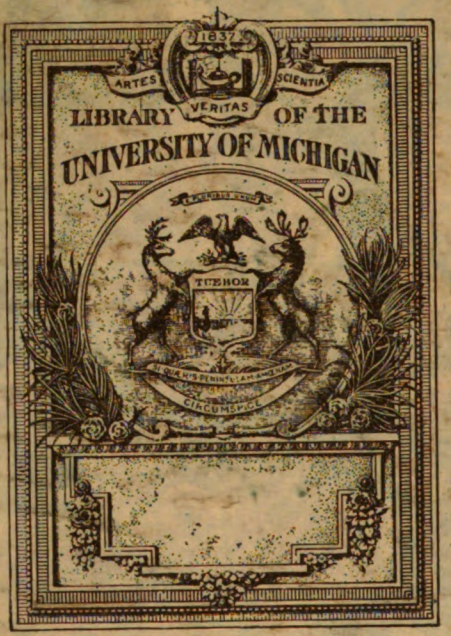
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

The Beauties of England and Wales, or, Delineations, topographical, ...

John Britton, Edward Wedlake Brayley, James Norris Brewer, Joseph Nightingale, John Hodgson, John Evans, Frederic Shoberl, ...



Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

DA
600
B86

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Engraved by J. Smith from a drawing by J. Nash for the Beauties of England & Wales.

THE NORTH TOWER &c. of EXETER CATHEDRAL,
Devonshire

London, Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, Aug. ... 1801.

Digitized by Google

THE

Beauties

OF

ENGLAND AND WALES;

OR

DELINEATIONS

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL,

AND

DESCRIPTIVE.

Vol. IV.

London. Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, Sept. 1803.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales;

OR,

DELINEATIONS,

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

OF

EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY

JOHN BRITTON AND EDWARD WEDLAKE BRAYLEY.

VOL. IV.

"ALBION! o'er thee profusely Nature showers
Her gifts; with livelier verdure decks thy soil;
With ev'ry mingled charm of hill and dale,
Mountain and mead, hoar cliff and forest wide;
And thine the *ruins*, where rapt genius broods
In pensive haunts romantic; rifted *tow'rs*,
That, beetling o'er the rock, rear the grey crest
Embattled; and within the secret glade
Conceal'd, the *abbey's* ivy-mantled pile."

SOTHEBY.

LONDON:
Printed by Thomas Maidra, Sherbourne-Lane,
FOR VERNOR & HOOD, LONGMAN & REES, CUTHELL & MARTIN,
J. & A. ARCH, W. J. & J. RICHARDSON,
J. HARRIS, AND B. CROSBY.

1803.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

TO

JOHN DENT, Esq. M. P.

THIS VOLUME

OF

DELINEATIONS IN ENGLAND

IS INSCRIBED,

WITH SINCERE SENTIMENTS OF RESPECT AND GRATITUDE,

FOR

FAVORS CONFERRED

IN THE

TOPOGRAPHICAL ENQUIRIES

OF

HIS HUMBLE SERVANTS,

J. BRITTON,

AND

E. W. BRAYLEY.

April 1, 1803.

405214

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales.

DEVONSHIRE.

WHETHER the primitive colonists of Britain emigrated from the neighbouring continent of Gaul, or from the more distant regions of the east, is a question that has been frequently discussed by historians; but however the arguments adduced in support of either opinion may be thought conclusive, both tradition and history furnish evidence of the first settlements having been established on the coasts of DEVON. The original name of this district, though it was afterwards included with Cornwall, under the general appellation, *Danmonium*, was DYVNAINT; and by this term it is frequently mentioned in ancient Welsh manuscripts. Its import is descriptive of the country, and implies *Deeps* or *Hollows*; and hence the people might be called *Dyvni*, *Dyvniaid*, DYVNONI, *Dyvnonwyr*, *Dyvnonwys*, and *Dyvnwys*; all implying the inhabitants of the glens, or deep valleys.*

Before the arrival of the Romans, the Belgæ, who had invaded this island from Gaul, made inroads into Devonshire, and forced great numbers of the Danmonii to emigrate to Ireland: the remainder united with the natives of the adjacent coasts to oppose the common enemy; and it appears from Richard, that, prior to the coming of Cæsar, the war against the Belgæ was carried on by the Britons under Cassibelinus, whose second son, Theomantuis, was at that period Duke of Danmonium. Under the Roman domination, Devon was included in the district named BRITANNIA PRIMA: by the Saxons it was made part of the

* Cambrian Register, Vol. II. p. 7.

Digitized by Google

kingdom of Wessex, and so continued till the incorporation of the various Saxon states into one monarchy, in the time of Egbert.

The county of Devon is one of the most valuable in England, and in point of size, is only exceeded by that of York. On the north, and north-west, it is bounded by the Bristol Channel; on the west, by the river Tamar, and a small rivulet called Marsland-water; on the south, and south-east, it is skirted by the British Channel; on the east, and north-east, it borders on the counties of Dorset and Somerset, the dividing limits being artificial. Its greatest extent, from south to north, is nearly seventy-one miles; and from east to west, seventy-two: its circumference is about 287. The area contains about 1,633,280 acres, thirty-three hundreds, 394 parishes, forty market-towns, 61,190 houses, and 343,001 inhabitants.

The external aspect of Devonshire is exceedingly varied and irregular: and the heights in many parts, but particularly in *Dartmoor*, and its vicinity, swell into mountains; the altitudes of the principal eminences being from 1500 to 1800 feet. On approaching this tract from the south and south-east, the eye is bewildered by an extensive waste, exhibiting gigantic tors, large surfaces covered with vast masses of scattered granite, and immense rocks, which seem to have been precipitated from the steep declivities into the vallies. These huge and craggy fragments are spread confusedly over the ground, and have been compared to the ponderous masses ejected by volcanoes, to the enormous ruins of formidable castles, and to the wrecks of mountains torn piecemeal by the raging elements.

Dartmoor, and the waste called the *Forest of Dartmoor*, occupy the greatest portion of the western district, which, extending from the Vale of Exeter, nearly reaches to the banks of the Tamar, and includes between two and three hundred thousand acres of open and uncultivated lands; of these Dartmoor alone is supposed to comprise upwards of eighty thousand. These extensive tracts, though capable of considerable improvement, at present scarcely afford more than a scanty pasturage to a few thousand sheep and cattle. The right of depasture belongs to different interests; the

Forest

Digitized by Google

Forest itself, being the property of the Prince of Wales, as parcel of the Duchy of Cornwall; but the outskirts, and parts of the hills, are appendant to the surrounding manors, many of which have likewise a prescriptive right of common on the Forest, on paying an inconsiderable sum annually to the Duchy, under the name of *Venville* (fen-field) money.* The Duchy, however, possesses the right of stocking the Forest by *agistment*; and for this purpose it is leased in districts to various persons, who pasture the stock of the neighbouring townships at a very low rate.

In the higher parts of the moor, to the north and west, are vast tracts of wet swampy ground, which prove exceedingly dangerous to the pasturing cattle, but supply the bordering inhabitants with peat for fuel; the use of it, as a manure, being little attended to. Many of the peat bogs are of great depth, and in dry summers are covered with a strong succulent grass. Besides the common peat, they furnish what the natives call *Blackwood*, an intricate combination of earth, fibres of the roots of heath, and other plants, rotten leaves, and various vegetable substances: this, when cut into pieces about twelve inches long, six or seven wide, and two thick, is dried and charred, and afterwards used by the smiths in tempering edge tools. In those parts where the peaty soil is not prevalent, the upper mould is thin, black, and light; the substratum, a pale red or yellow clay, mixed with sand and gravel: the soil on some of the higher grounds is a good loam, of sufficient

 depth

* The sum paid by the Venville tenants is about three-pence for as many sheep as they choose to send, and two-pence a head for cattle. Those who pasture stock on the moor, and are not Venville tenants, are charged by the lessees, about two shillings and six-pence per score for sheep, and two shillings a head for cattle for the summer run. The ancient Venville tenements on the Forest are thirty-seven, or thirty-eight; of these thirty-five are entitled, on descent or alienation, to an additional part of the waste for inclosures. This portion is called a *New take*, and amounts to twenty-five or thirty acres, or more, if the ground be rocky or boggy; being deemed equivalent to eight acres of good land. The New-take is on application set out by the *homage* jury, to whom the fee is four guineas; with a quit-rent to the Prince, of one shilling, eighteen-pence, or two shillings yearly.

History and Description of the City of Exeter, &c. by THOMAS BRICE.

Digitized by Google

depth for cultivation. Though the Forest of Dartmoor, as its name implies, and tradition corroborates, was once stocked with trees, the only remaining natural wood it now contains, is an assemblage of dwarf scrubby oaks, intermixed with a few trees of mountain ash, willows, &c. This wood is on the western slope of a hill, about eleven miles from Moreton, between Crockern-Tor, and that branch of the river Dart which passes the newly-erected inn at Two Bridges. It grows amidst a number of loose blocks of granite, which have been fantastically wreathed by the roots of the trees, as they have crept over and between them in search of nourishment.

The *Vale of Exeter* differs widely in appearance from Dartmoor; though in some parts, particularly between Tiverton and Exeter, and the latter place and Collumpton, it has an irregular billowy surface, and presents eminences of considerable magnitude; but the central and more southern parts preserve the vale character. The area of this district contains about 200 square miles: its boundaries on the north, are the hills that range from Clanaborough, by Halberton, and Uffculm, to *Blackdown*; a dreary mountainous ridge, which, with its contiguous branches, skirts the eastern side of the vale: on the south-east it is bounded by the heights of Sidmouth-hill, East-down, and Woodbury; and on the west, by the mountainous tract of Haldon, and the undulating eminences that stretch towards Bow.

The soils in this district vary exceedingly; but the most prevalent are strong red loam, shillet, or foliated clay, intersected with numerous veins of iron-stone, and a mixture of sand and gravel. Of these, the loam, from the closeness of its texture, is the most fertile: the shillet requires frequent showers to prevent its being parched. Wheat, barley, beans, and pease, are the most general productions of the arable lands; flax is also cultivated, but in no great quantity. The pasture lands are chiefly appropriated to supply the dairy; but in some parts considerable attention is given to the breeding of sheep and cattle. The produce of the dairy is butter and skim-milk cheese. It seems probable that this district was early cultivated, as the appropriated lands are universally inclosed,

and

Digitized by Google

and the inclosures in general small, and well furnished with hedge-row timber. Many pollard oaks are found among the elms; and in various places oak timber trees, with a profusion of coppice wood growing between them. Most of the farms and villages are interspersed with numerous apple-trees. The cottages of the peasantry are chiefly constructed of red earth mixed with straw, commonly called *cobb*, and covered with reeds: when rough cast, and kept dry, these kind of buildings are very durable: the walls are generally from fourteen inches to two feet in thickness.

The district called the *South-Hams*, is frequently termed the Garden of Devonshire, from its fertility. Its natural boundaries are Dartmoor, and the heights of Chudleigh, on the north; Plymouth Sound, on the west; Torbay, on the east; and on its southern point, the English Channel. Its area, including the rich valley of the Dart, which extends towards Ashburton, includes nearly 250 square miles. This tract is strikingly diversified by bold swells, winding coombs, and fine vales; and in many parts, particularly towards the north, the scenery is picturesque, and highly romantic. Numerous springs flow from the sides of the hills, and uniting into brooks and rivulets, spread luxuriance and beauty through a considerable extent of country.

The upper grounds of the South-Hams are appropriated alternately to pasture and to tillage; the lower grounds are chiefly cultivated as meadows. The principal kind of soil is a strong red loam, with a sub-stratum of clay. The common crops on the arable lands, are wheat, barley, oats, turnips, and potatoes: the average produce of wheat has been estimated at twenty-five bushels, and of barley at thirty-five, per acre.

Great quantities of cyder are made in this district, as well as in the Vale of Exeter; and as almost every farm has its orchard, the general produce affords a considerable surplus for exportation, even after large deductions have been made for home consumption. Preference is generally given to those apples which are most juicy, yet they are seldom sorted: the *red-streak* is the species considered as most productive. The sweet cyder is chiefly made in the vicinity of Staverton, but of the same kind of fruit as the rough:

Digitized by Google

rough: the sweet taste arises from its being often racked, which checks the fermentation. The cyder made in the neighbourhood of Exeter, Chudleigh, Newton-Bushel, Peignton, Totness, and some contiguous places, is deemed of superior flavour.

A considerable quantity of butter is made in this district; the method by which the cream is produced is almost peculiar to Devonshire: it is raised by heating the milk in earthen or brass pans, and is then worked into butter by the hand of the dairy-maid, who turns it all one way in a bowl, or tub, without the assistance of the churn. After the cream is taken off, the scalded milk is made into an inferior kind of cheese, principally for home use. The average produce of butter from each cow, is about one pound daily. Cattle and sheep are bred and fattened here in great numbers.

All the lands of this district, with the exception of a few small plots, are in a state of permanent inclosure. The fences are chiefly high mounds, surmounted by coppice wood; which not only affords a sufficient supply of fuel for the occupiers of the estates, but also a surplus of poles, cord-wood, faggots, and oak-bark, for sale. "This kind of product is regarded as a crop of some value, in addition to its utility as a fence, as it affords to the pasturing animals excellent shelter from wind and sun, with but moderate care and expence in repairing. These hedges are better adapted to the hilly surface of Devon, than to more level countries; commonly forming, all together, a barrier thirty feet high, which so softens the rigour of unfriendly blasts, that most of the inferior swells are cultivated to the very summits. A stranger, unaware of this practice, considers himself as travelling in deep hollow ways for miles, till arrived at some elevated opening, he is charmed with the delightful scenery of the fertile country he has passed."* The houses are in general firm and good; stone, lime, and slate, being abundant.

The natural boundaries of the district named *West-Devonshire*, are, on the east, the Dartmoor Mountains; on the south, Plymouth Sound,

* History of Exeter, p. 136.

Digitized by Google

Sound, and its several estuaries; the river Tamar on the west; and on the north, Brent Tor, and the adjacent heaths. The surface is extremely diversified; not only from the number, narrowness, and depth of the larger vallies, whose sides generally rise with a steep ascent from the banks of the streams that divide them, but likewise from the hills, or wide spaces which extend between the vallies, being rent and broken in a very peculiar manner. No part of the district can be strictly called vale; and the level meadows and marsh lands are but of very inconsiderable extent.

It is observed by Mr. Marshall, that the surface soil of West Devon is remarkably uniform, and singular in its component parts. "It does not class properly with any of the ordinary description of soils, namely, clay, loam, sand, or gravel; but is rather of a silty nature. Perhaps the principal part of the soil of the district is perished slate-stone rubble, or slate-stone itself, reduced by the action of the atmosphere to its original silt, or mud; among which, however, a portion of loamy mould is mixed, in various degrees of quantity: hence, though the species of soil may be regarded as the same, the quality varies, and in some instances very greatly."* The prevailing sub-stratum is a soft slaty rock, which in some places rises to the surface; but in others, a stratum of rubble intervenes.

Nearly two thirds of the inclosed lands of this district are employed alternately in the cultivation of grasses, and raising of corn; the remainder is either in tillage, or occupied by orchard grounds. The dells and narrow vallies produce considerable quantities of wood, which grows also in abundance on the rugged sides of the hills, and on the elevated fence mounds, which form a distinguishing feature in the rural management of this county. In the grass lands, red clover and rye-grass are principally cultivated; but white clover, and trefoil, only occasionally. The system of artificially watering meadow lands has been practised here time immemorially, but the general mode is defective; as the water is neither spread equally over the surface, nor judiciously drained from the soil afterwards. The course of practice generally pursued in the cultivated

* Rural Economy of the West of England, Vol. I. p. 14.

Digitized by Google

cultivated lands of this district is this: pasture, partial fallow, or beat-burning, wheat, barley, oats, grasses; and sometimes potatoes and turnips. The practice of beat-burning has occasioned considerable discussion among agriculturists as to its real utility; and writers have not been wanting, who have asserted it as altogether detrimental. When this operation was introduced is unknown; but so general was its adoption here, that the practice, in an old tract in the British Museum, is called *Devonshiring;* and it is still termed *Denshiring* in different parts of the county. In this process, Mr. Marshall observes, " there are three distinct methods of separating the sward, or sod, provincially the *spine*, from the soil. The one is performed with a *beating-axe*, namely, a large adze, some five or six inches wide, and ten or twelve inches long, crooked, and somewhat hollow, or dishing. With this, which was probably the original instrument employed in the operation, large chips, shavings, or sods, are struck off. In using it, the workman appears to the eye of a stranger, at some distance, to be *beating* the surface as with a beetle, rather than to be chipping of the sward with an edge-tool: this operation is termed *hand-beating*. The next instrument in use is the *spade*, resembling the paring spade or breast-plough of other districts, with, in some instances, the addition of a mould-board, fixed in such a manner as to turn the sod, or turf, as a plow turns the furrow slices. In working with this tool, the laborer proceeds without stopping to divide the sods into short lengths; this part being done by women and children, who follow to break the turf into lengths, and set the pieces on end to dry. The instrument at present used to separate the spine, or grassy turf, from the soil, by farmers in general, is the common *team-plough*, with some little alteration in the form and size of the share, there being two different ways of performing the operation, respectively termed *velling*, and *skirting*. For velling, the share is made wide, with the angle, or outer point of the wing, or *fin*, turned upward, to separate the turf entirely from the soil: for skirting, the common share is used; but made, perhaps, somewhat wider than when it is used in the ordinary operation of ploughing. In the latter mode of using the plough, little more than half

Digitized by Google

the sward is pared off, and the turf raised is turned upon a line of unmoved turf. The paring of turf in this case is from one to two inches thick, on the coulter margin, decreasing in thickness to a thin feather edge, by which it adheres to the unmoved sward. Having lain some time in this state, to rot, or grow tender, it is pulled to pieces with rough *harrows*, drawn across the lines of turf; and having lain in this rough state till it be sufficiently dry, it is bruised with a *roller*, and immediately harrowed with lighter harrows; walking the horses one way, and trotting them the other, to shake the earth out more effectually from the roots of the grass; going over them again, and again, until most of the earth is disengaged. The beat, or fragments of turf, being sufficiently dry, it is gathered into round heaps of five or six bushels each, called *beat-burrows*, and these being shook up light and hollow, fire is set to them, and when the centre of the heaps are consumed, the outskirts are thrown lightly into the hollows, and the heaps rounded up, as at first, till the whole of the beat is consumed, or changed by the action of the fire. The produce of the first skirting being burnt, and spread over the surface, the operation is sometimes repeated by running the plough across the lines of the first skirting, thus paring off the principal part of the *spine;* and again dragging, rolling, harrowing, collecting, and burning, as in the former operation."*

"There needs not a better proof," continues Mr. Marshall, "that this practice, under the guidance of discretion, is not *destructive* to soils, nor any way *dangerous* to agriculture, than the fact so fully ascertained here, that, after a constant use of it, during, perhaps, a long succession of ages, the soil still continues to be productive; and, under management in other respects much below par, continues to yield a rent equivalent to that drawn from lands of equal quality in more enlightened districts: and there appears to me strong reason to imagine, that, under the present course of management, sod-burning is essential to success. Indeed, instances are mentioned, and pretty well authenticated, in which men who stood

* Rural Economy, &c. Vol. I. p. 146.

Digitized by Google

stood high in their profession, and of sufficient capitals, having been injured, or brought to poverty, through their being restricted from this practice, which may be said to form a principal wheel in the present machine, or system of the Devonshire husbandry: for it is observable, that the wheat crops of this district, after the burning, liming, and one ploughing, are in general beautifully clean; and this, though the succeeding crop of barley may be foul in the extreme: a circumstance, perhaps, which would be difficult to account for in any other way, than in the check which the weeds receive from the burning. Let it not, however, be understood, that any facts which are here brought forward, are intended to show the *necessity* of sod-burning in this or any other district. To three fourths of the island, the practice may be said to be unknown; yet in many parts of this unburnt surface of country, if not throughout the whole of it, the present state of husbandry is preferable to that of Devonshire; and whenever *clean fallows*, and suitable *fallow crops*, shall be introduced here, and judiciously mixed with the grain crops, agreeably to the practice of modern husbandry, burning beat will certainly be no longer required. In fact, the upland soils of this county are not adapted to the practice. The soil, under ordinarily good management, is, in its nature, productive of clean sweet herbage; and, under a proper course of husbandry, never would become coarse and rough-skinned, so as to require this operation; which is peculiarly adapted to old, coarse, tough sward, whether of dry land or wet, light land or stiff; and probably to cold retentive soils, whenever a suitable rotation of crops will permit."

The introduction of orchards into this district is, by tradition, affirmed to have taken place between 200 and 300 years ago; and those belonging to Buckland Priory are said to have been the *first* planted. The situations of the orchards are generally in the vallies, and in the dips or hollows in the vicinity of the farm-houses. The species of fruit is invariably the apple, where liquor is the object; but cherries, pears, and walnuts, are in some parts raised in great abundance for the fruit markets. The orchards that succeed best in West Devonshire, are those which are seated in the hollows,

Digitized by Google

hollows, and deep narrow vallies, where the situation shelters them from the bleak blasts of the north-east, and the sea-winds from the west and south-west. In *setting out* orchards, the practice of this county is somewhat peculiar, the ordinary distance between the plants not being more than five yards and a half. The most approved method of planting, is to remove the soil down to the rock, which seldom lies very deep, and to cover this eight or ten inches thick, with a compost of fresh earth and sea-sand. Upon this compost, in most cases, the inverted turf is laid; and on this the young tree is set, its root being bedded in the best of the excavated mould. The pit is then filled with common soil. New orchards, however, are seldom planted; the general custom being to keep the same ground in an orchard state, in perpetuity, by planting young trees in the interspaces, as the old ones decay.

The ordinary place of manufacturing *cyder* is provincially termed the *Pound House;* probably from the ancient method of *pounding* or breaking the apples, *by hand*, with wooden pestles, in a large tub, or trough; a practice still continued in some parts of Cornwall. This building is generally a mean barn, or hovel, without any peculiarity of form, or trace of contrivance, excepting where the orchard grounds are extensive, and appropriate arrangements are made for the production of the liquor. The Pound House mentioned by Mr. Marshall as the best, with respect to plan, which the nature of a fruit liquor manufactory will admit of, or requires, is described by that gentleman as an oblong square, having behind it a flooring or platform of loose stones, to receive the fruit as it is gathered, and to give it the first stage of maturation in the open air. "The ground-floor of one end of the building contains the mill and press. Over this part is a loft or chamber, in which the apples receive the last stage of maturation, and from which they are conveyed by a spout into the mill. The ground-floor of the other end of the building is the fermenting room, sunk a few steps below the floor of the mill and press-room; a pipe or shoot conveying the liquor from the press, into a cistern in the fermenting room."

In

In the Devonshire method of gathering fruit for the making of cyder there is nothing peculiar, except, perhaps, the circumstance of the fruit being gathered either wet or dry. When the apples are collected, they are spread in heaps* in the open air, where they remain exposed till they become as mellow as possible, or till the *brown rot* has begun to take place. The apples are then picked; the green or hard fruit being separated, and set apart to mellow, to prevent the cyder from fretting; and the *black rotten* fruit removed, as their juice is exceedingly injurious to the making of good liquor. The apples are now conveyed to the mill, and *ground*, or rather broken; and in this state carried to the *press*. The presses are of different kinds: the most general is an improvement of the simple lever, by adding a rider, or lever upon lever; at the end of which a weight is suspended: by this contrivance the acting lever is kept hard down upon the *cheese*,† and follows it as it sinks; an advantage which the screw-press does not possess. The screw-presses are of an enormous size, whether made with one or two screws; being large enough to press four, five, or six hogsheads at once. The method of pressing is invariably that of piling up the *pomage*, or ground-fruit, in reed, (unthreshed straw,) in layers: those of the pomage being three or four inches thick, having the reed laid thinly over, and then another thin covering spread across the first. Under the gigantic presses just mentioned, the pile is four or five feet square, and nearly as much in height. On the top, a broad strong covering of wood is laid, and upon this the lever is lowered: the pressing of one of the enormous *cheeses* of the larger presses, takes two days to complete. When the pile has acquired sufficient firmness, the outsides, and loose spongy parts, which evaded the pressure, are pared off, and either placed upon the top of the cheese, to receive the immediate action of the press, or reserved for *beverage*,

* The best method, though not commonly attended to, is to spread the apples to the depth of sixteen or eighteen inches only, in order to prevent their *sweating* too much.

† The *cheese* is the name given to the pile of pomage, or broken fruit, from which the liquor is expressed.

Digitized by Google

beverage, being watered and pressed separately. The *must*, or expressed liquor, is placed in large open vessels, or cisterns, where it remains till the *head* rises, and is then drawn off into casks.*

The disorder termed the Devonshire colic has not unfrequently been said to originate in the cyder, or rather in the circumstance of the mills and presses having lead made use of in their construction. Mr. Marshall observes, that from two or three striking cases of this disease, which he had an opportunity of examining, it appeared to him to be "the joint effect of cyder, and of a vile spirit which is drawn by the housewives of Devon from the grounds and lees of the fermenting room. These dregs are distilled (of course illegally) by means of a porridge-pot, with a tin head fixed over it, and communicating with a straight pipe, passing through a hogshead of water. The liquor being passed twice through this imperfect apparatus, comes over extremely empyreumatic; and is drank in a recent state, under the appropriate name of *necessity*. In evidence of the improbability of lead being the cause of this disorder, a mill, which had been constructed a century at least, and which is cramped together by means of lead, being examined,

* The following directions for the management of cyder, after it is put into casks, were communicated by a gentleman of Devonshire. The casks should not be filled higher than to within four or five inches of the bung-hole, that the air may have space to spread from one end of the cask to the other, which will assist the liquor in settling the sooner. After this, it should be *racked* into clean casks, having the same space unfilled as before. When it begins to sing or fret, rack it again, still leaving room for the air, with the bung out, and continue this process till the fermentation has completely subsided. When the cyder becomes settled, it may be fined with isinglass, one ounce being sufficient for a hogshead. Infuse this quantity in a quart of warm cyder, stirring it frequently: as it thickens, add more cyder, and whisk it well about with twigs of birch: when dissolved, and strained, it will be fit for use. Now rack the cyder, put the isinglass into a can, adding some old cyder; and after mixing it well, pour it into the cask, stirring it with a flippant stick till it froths considerably at the bung. Then stop the cask about eight hours, and afterwards leave it open. If the cyder does not become transparent in a week or ten days, the same process must be repeated; and it will not then fail of producing the necessary transparency. This being accomplished, the cyder may be stopped down for use, as it will not ferment again.

Digitized by Google

it was found that no corrosion of the lead had taken place; and that even the marks of the hammer remained perfectly distinct."

The cultivated lands of West-Devon are all inclosed; the inclosures being generally large in proportion to the size of farms. They have every appearance of having been formed from a state of common pasture, in which state a considerable part of the district still remains. The villages are, in general, few and small; the farm-houses, and many cottages being pleasantly scattered over the areas of the townships. The buildings are, in general, good; stone, slate, and lime, being easily obtained, and at a small expence. Many of the houses are covered with thatch, to procure which, with as little injury to the straw as possible, the wheat and rye in this district, and, indeed, in most other parts of the west of England, are threshed in the following singular manner. In the first operation, "the ears are either threshed lightly with the flail, or they are beaten across a cask, by hand, till the grain be got pretty well out of them. The next operation is to suspend the straw in large double handfuls, in a short rope fixed high above the head, with an iron hook at the loose end of it, which is put twice round the little sheaf-let, just below the ears, and fastened by the hook being fixed in the tight part of the rope. The left hand being now placed firmly upon the hook, and pulling downward so as to twitch the straw hard, and prevent the ears from slipping through, the butts are freed from short straws and weeds, by means of a small long-toothed rake or comb. This done, the rope is unfastened, and the *reed* laid evenly in a heap. A quantity of clean, straight, unbruised straw, or *reed*, being thus obtained, it is formed into small sheaves, returned to the floor, and the ears threshed again with the flail, or by hand over the cask, to free it effectually from any remaining grain. Lastly, the reed is made up into bundles, provincially sheaves, of thirty-six pounds each, with all the ears at one end, the butts being repeatedly punched upon the floor, until they are as even as if they had been cut off smooth and level with a scythe, while the straws lie as straight, and are almost as stout, as those of inferior *reed*, or stems of the *arundo*."* *North-*

* Rural Economy, &c. Vol. I. p. 181.

Digitized by Google

North-Devon, in its most extended sense, comprehends the whole district situated between Dartmoor and the British Channel; but more generally its signification is limited to the country round Biddeford, Barnstaple, South Moulton, and the north coasts. In this tract the ground is greatly diversified, and the scenery beautiful. The land is chiefly appropriated to the growth of wheat and oats; and the soil is generally productive, except, perhaps, the summits of some of the highest hills. The orchard grounds are not extensive; but coppice wood is produced in abundance on the sides of the hills, and narrow vallies. The inclosures are tolerably large, yet many common fields are met with in this district.

The life tenures by which land is held in the west of England, form one of its most distinguishing characteristics. The proprietors of the fee simple, lease their estates generally for three lives, nominated by the purchaser; or for ninety-nine years, if a nominee survive that term; a circumstance that has sometimes happened; reserving, however, a small annual rent. As these lives drop, new ones are generally put in, on payment of an adequate sum. Half the lands in Devon, perhaps, are now held by this sort of tenure, which is disposed of by a kind of auction, wherein the bidding is rather for the priority of being treated with, than for the estate itself; for if the best bidder does not reach the seller's price, the bidding is void: the seller then names his price, which the highest bidder may accept or refuse; if he refuse, the next bidder has his option. Leases of this kind are valued at eighteen years purchase of the neat rental, or fourteen years purchase of the gross rent and taxes; the last being the common terms. The purchaser is at liberty to release the estate, and may thus become a middle man, between the owner and occupier. The lessee is generally bound to keep up buildings, fences, gates, &c. the proprietor finding timber. Coppice, underwood, fruit and other trees, (oak, elm and ash excepted,) are, under certain regulations, at the tenant's disposal during the term of the lease; at the expiration of which, a few days are allowed by custom for taking off the live stock; and forty days for the removal of the grain,

Digitized by Google

furniture, &c. but neither straw, dung, fixtures, nor even a bough, can be touched after the extinction of the last life.

The gradations in landed property are in Devon, perhaps, more regular than in any other part of England. Except in a few families, there are no very great freeholds; and the inhabitants who live in respectability on their own estates, are numerous and sociable. The farms are exceedingly various in extent; and though for the last forty years they have been increasing, there are not many at present that exceed two or three hundred acres. The larger farms are provincially termed *Bartons:* the yearly rent of those of the most general size, may be included between the sums of fifteen and one hundred pounds. In many parts of England, servants and laborers in husbandry are hired at stated times, and places; as at statutes, fairs, &c. but in Devon the custom is different. Here they are commonly engaged by the half-year, or year; and when about to remove, make enquiry at the neighbouring farms for a new service. It is also a practice with the farmers of this county, to take the male-children of paupers as apprentices: these are bound under the protection of the magistrates; and generally from seven or eight years of age, to that of twenty-one; the masters engaging to supply every necessary.

The breed of *Cattle* in Devonshire is spoken of, by Mr. Marshall, as being in many respects the most perfect in England. This accurate observer imagines all the varieties to be sprung from the *native breed of the Island*, and remarks, that, with the exception of color, they exactly resemble the wild cattle which are still preserved at Chillingham Park, in Northumberland. The Devonshire breed are of the middle-horned kind, but vary considerably, both in size and form, in different parts of the county. "North Devon takes the lead in both these particulars; and its breed are in both nearly what cattle ought to be. In size, they are somewhat below the desirable point for the heavier works of husbandry; but they make up for this deficiency, in exertion and agility; and are, beyond comparison, the best *workers* I have any where seen. As dairy cattle, the Devonshire breed are not excellent; rearing for the east-country graziers having long been the main object of the

Digitized by Google

the farmers of this county; but as grazing cattle, individuals in every part of the county show the breed to be excellent. In West-Devonshire the breed is considerably smaller than in the northern district; and their quality in every respect lower."* Oxen have time immemorially been the *plough-team* of this county; sometimes with horses before them, but more generally alone. Four aged oxen, or six growing steers, are the usual number yoked to one plough.†

The established breed of *Sheep* in Devon is the *middle-woolled class;* but it is observable, that the heads of individuals are variously characterized; some of them being *horned;* others *polled,* or without horns, provincially called *nots;* and also a third sort, exhibiting a mongrel deformity of head, and appearing to be a mixed breed, originally produced between the two former. Many individuals in these varieties bear so strong a resemblance to the present breed of Dorsetshire, as to leave little doubt of their having descended from the same stock. The true Dorsetshire, or, as they are frequently termed, the house-lamb breed, is found in great perfection in the Vale of Exeter. The month of January is the principal time of *lambing.*

The native breed of *Horses,* which is still found on the mountainous tracts of Devonshire, is very small, much resembling the Welsh and Highland breeds; and, like them, extremely valuable for particular purposes. The *pack-horses,* or ordinary sort, used in the inclosed country, are of a similar nature, but larger.

* Rural Economy of the West of England, Vol. I.

† "The style of *driving* an ox team, here, is observable; indeed, cannot pass unnoticed by a stranger. The language, though in a great degree peculiar to the country, does not arrest the attention; but the tone, or rather tune, in which it is delivered. It resembles, with great exactness, the chantings, or recitative, of the cathedral service. The plough-boy chants the counter-tenor with unabated ardour through the day; the plough-man throwing in at intervals his hoarser notes. It is understood that this chanting march, which may sometimes be heard at a considerable distance, encourages and animates the team, like the music of a marching army, or the song of the rowers."

Rural Economy, &c. Vol. I.

Digitized by Google

Thirty or forty years ago, almost every kind of moveable was carried on the backs of horses; but wheel carriages have since been introduced; though, in the ordinary practice of husbandmen, hay, corn, straw, fuel, stones, manure, &c. are yet conveyed on the horses' backs, which are fitted with crooks and pots.

The principal *Manures* employed in Devonshire are lime, sea-sand, and dung; but in the neighbourhood of the chief towns, soap-ashes and soot are also used. The former is made from a variegated lime-stone, procured near Plymouth, and carried up the different rivers, along the banks of which are kilns, wherein great quantities are burnt. "In applying it as a manure, it is either spread evenly in a pulverized state over the surface of the soil, reduced to a fine tilth, mixed by rolling and harrowing till its whiteness be lost, and then left to be more intimately incorporated by a fall of rain; or the lime is mixed by hand with dung, and earth collected from ditches, and sometimes with beat ashes also,"* previously to its being laid upon the soil, with which great care is always taken to incorporate it intimately. Sea-sand, though it has been used for ages as a manure on the coasts of Devon, is not sufficiently attended to, as to its specific qualities. Some kinds are more injurious than useful, yet are indiscriminately employed by farmers in general: the most efficacious sand, is that which consists almost wholly of comminuted shells. In some districts, the use of sea-sand has been superseded by lime.

The variety of surface in Devonshire has a proportionable effect on the *Weather*, which varies exceedingly in different situations. In the Vale of Exeter, and the South-Hams, the air is dry and warm; and the harvest earlier than in any other part of the west. The winters are generally mild, and the air is particularly favorable in pulmonary complaints. On the south coasts, the myrtle flourishes, unsheltered. The harvest months of West-Devonshire are comparatively late, but vary in a singular manner with the season. The situation of this district between two seas, its immediate exposure to the south-west winds as they blow from the main ocean,

* History of Exeter, &c. p. 195.

Digitized by Google

ocean, and the elevated summits of the surrounding mountains, which arrest the heavy laden clouds in their passage from the Atlantic, unite in rendering it liable to an excess of rain. On the north coasts, the weather is frequently bleak and boisterous; yet between Biddeford and South-Moulton, and in the adjacent parts, the general temperature is equal in mildness to that of South-Devon.

For the improvement of agriculture, and the encouragement of industry, a society of the most respectable inhabitants of this county was formed in the latter end of the year 1791, under the name of the *Devonshire Agricultural Society;* and since that period has been of considerable service in spreading a knowledge of the most approved modes of practice adopted in other parts of the kingdom. Premiums have been distributed to the inventors of new agricultural instruments, as well as to the persons who have made improvements in those generally used. Bounties have also been given for improving the breeds of sheep and cattle; and rewards distributed among the most deserving servants in husbandry, whether male or female. The management of the society is regulated by a superior committee, and three inferior ones: the former meet at Exeter; and the latter in the respective districts of East, South, and North-Devon.

Among the products of Devonshire, should be noticed the great variety of fish which abound in its rivers, and on the coasts; and, in addition to the home consumption, supply a very considerable quantity of food for the Bath and London markets. In the rivers Tamar and Tavy, great numbers of *Salmon* are annually taken, and produce large sums to the proprietors of the estates which have the right of fishing. *The Salmon Fishery* on the Tavy is appendant to the lands of Buckland Place, the seat of the Drake family, by whose ancestor, the celebrated circumnavigator, the estate was purchased. The weir belonging to this fishery is a work of considerable magnitude. It consists of a strong dam, ten or twelve feet high, thrown across the river in a part where two projecting rocks serve as buttresses to the masonry, which is built somewhat arch-wise, to resist the pressure and force

Digitized by Google

of the waters in times of flood, when they collect from the slopes of the Dartmoor Hills, and rush down with extraordinary impetuosity. At one end of the dam is a weir-house, or *trap*, on the principle of the vermin-trap, the entrance of which is outwardly large, but contracted inwardly, so as to prevent the escape of whatever has entered it. On the higher side of the trap, (which is about twelve or fifteen feet square on the inside,) opposite to the entrance, is an opening or sluice, in the stone-work, or rock, as a passage for the water. This opening has two lifting flood-gates; the one close, to shut out occasionally, the whole of the water; the other, a grate, to suffer the water to pass, and at the same time to prevent fish of any considerable size from escaping. When the trap is set, the close grate is drawn up with an iron crow, thus suffering the water to pass through the house. On the contrary, to take the fish which have entered, the close grate is let down, and the trap is presently left nearly dry. The narrowed entrance of the trap is judiciously placed, somewhat above the floor; so that before the salmon are seriously alarmed by the fall of the water, it has sunk below the mouth of the trap, and their retreat the more effectually prevented, as by following the water near the floor, they are led away beneath the tunnel; which, like the open flood-gate, is made of strong wooden bars, open enough to permit the passage of the water, but not that of the fish. Besides salmon, salmon-peal, and occasionally a few trouts, are caught in the weir; but the principal part of the produce of this fishery is taken in *nets*. The river, for nearly a mile below the weir, is broken into rapids and pools; some of them very deep. Several of these pools are adapted to the seine, or draw-net, which is drawn once or twice a day by four men; who are provided with horses to carry the net, and the fish caught; and with dogs, that have been taught to convey the end of the rope across the water, where it is too deep or inconvenient to be forded. After a flood, and when salmon are abundant, ten or twelve are frequently taken at a draught, and sometimes more. In the Tavy, the fishing season commences about the middle or latter end of February, (but on the Tamer, not till several weeks afterward,) and closes in October or November, when the weir is

Digitized by Google

thrown open. When the water is clear, many salmon are taken with the spear by poachers, who throw this weapon with great dexterity.*

The salmon of the Tamar and Tavy are of inferior quality to those taken in many other rivers in Devonshire. The salmon of the Exe are considered as the most delicate and fine flavoured. In the river Dart, they are caught in great abundance; their usual weight is from six to fourteen pounds: though they are frequently taken of the weight of twenty, or upwards. Those that ascend the Teign, are often sold at Chudleigh as low as three-halfpence and two-pence a pound. The prevailing river-fish of Devon is the *Trout*, which are provincially called *shots*, from their rapid motion through the water. The river Otter is remarkable for its trout, and salmon-peal; the former having a peculiarly rich flavour, and the latter being very large and firm. The *Plaise* of the Devonshire rivers are esteemed as particularly delicious; more so, perhaps, than those of any other part of the world. The *Torpedo*, or *electric ray*, has occasionally been caught in Torbay, and has also been taken in the river Dart; the weight varying from ten to eighty pounds. The usual depth of water in which they are met with, is from thirty-six to forty fathoms. The *Opah*, or king-fish, is very rare: one of them, taken at Brixham, near Torbay, in the year 1772, is described as weighing "one hundred and forty pounds. Its length was four feet and a half; its breadth, two feet and a quarter; its greatest thickness only four inches. The general color of this fish was a vivid transparent scarlet varnish, over burnished gold, bespangled with oval silver spots of various sizes: the breast was a hard bone resembling the keel of a ship; the flesh looked and tasted like beef."† The *Sepia*, or *cuttle-fish*, is frequently taken in nets by the fishermen off Teignmouth, and Slapton Sands. *Oysters* are taken on the coast in great abundance: the oyster-beds at Starcross, Topsham, and Lympstone, are much esteemed; those at the latter place are said to be full a hundred acres in extent. At Dartmouth,

* Rural Economy, Vol. II. p. 236, *et seq.*

† See Pennant's Zool. Vol. III. p. 284.

Digitized by Google

Dartmouth, Wembury,* and other intermediate places on the coast, they are also very plentiful. Numerous species of fish, beside the above, are obtained on the coasts, and in the rivers of this county.

The varieties of MINERALOGICAL substances discovered in Devonshire, and the confused intermixture of the strata, render it apparent that this county has, in some distant age, been the theatre of the destructive operations of those tremendous instruments by which nature occasionally changes the face of the globe; earthquakes, and volcanoes. The period of their occurrence will, perhaps, be for ever concealed; but the traces of their action are distinctly marked by the numerous vestiges which present themselves to the investigations of the scientific enquirer.

"Between Exeter and Exminster," observes Mr. Polwhele, "the strata seem to have been greatly agitated, from their present irregular appearance. There is one spot, in particular, on the left, a little before the approach to Exminster village, where the white and red layers of sand, some loose, and some concreted, are jumbled together in a very extraordinary manner. We here observe the strata in all possible directions. The lime-stone rocks, which to the south and west of Dartmoor appear insulated in the schistus, are evidently parts of some great stratum that at first occupied a place superior to the schistus. To break up, therefore, this

* With the singular facts relative to the oyster mentioned in Vol. II. p. 324, may be recorded another curious incident, which happened between forty and fifty years since at Ashburton, at the house of Mrs. Aldridge, called the New Inn, and is thus related in Polwhele's History of Devonshire. "In an underground cellar, a dish of Wembury oysters was laid by way of coolness. At the time the tide flows, it is well known oysters open their shells, to admit the waters, and take their food. At this period a large oyster had expanded its jaws; and at the same period two mice, searching for prey, pounced at once on the victim, and seized it with their teeth: the oyster, shrinking at the wound, closed its shell, collapsing with such force, as to crush the marauders to death. The oyster, with the two mice dangling from its shell, was, for a long time, exhibited as a curiosity by the landlady to her guests." A similar circumstance, of an oyster clasping a mouse with its shell, has been recorded in one of the Epigrams of the Greek Anthology.

Digitized by Google

this lime-stone stratum, and give it the appearance of rocks standing out of the schistus, as we observe it in many places, must have been a subsequent work. In the vicinity of these fractured strata, we have regular layers of soil, marble, and schist, as they were originally disposed. The strata of schistus and marble, which appear in the descent from Roborough to Plymouth, and succeed each other alternately to the shores that border the Sound, discover great irregularities. When they are arranged in a more regular manner, they generally incline to the east; but in many places they are almost vertical: a proof of the violence and devastation which must have occasioned these phenomena in some ancient period of time. But the cliffs in the eastern part of the country will give us no inadequate idea of the arrangement of the different strata. A sort of lime-stone, that bears some resemblance to chalk, begins in the parish of Salcombe, runs through that of Branscombe, and extends northwards nine miles to Widworthy, and possibly still further. At Salcombe Cliff, westward, where this stone begins, it is very near the surface, being covered only with a bed of red clay, mixed with flints, about twelve feet thick. Here the lime-stone, which lies under it, is in some places not above three feet thick; but in others, twenty or thirty; the surface rising and sinking in different places, like mountains and valleys. In this bed of lime-stone are lists of black flints, which are usually apparent in chalk quarries. This bed of lime-stone dips, and becomes thicker as it goes to the eastward. At Branscombe, where the largest quarry is opened, is a large head upon it, which consists chiefly of white flints, with a small quantity of reddish clay; and the bed of lime-stone is from twelve to thirty or forty feet deep, according to the different rises and falls that are in it. In some places are large masses of this lime-stone separated from the rest, and entirely surrounded with the flint and clay that form the head. As it goes further eastward, it dips into the sea; and a quarry of soft sand-stone rises above it. At Widworthy this stone is nearer the surface, being undoubtedly a continuation of the same bed, as appears from the exact resemblance of the stones to each other. Here, also,

Digitized by Google

also, the surface of the bed is undulated, and rises and falls exactly in the same manner with the beds at Branscombe and Salcombe.

"The cliffs near Mary-Church exhibit marble, not only to a great extent, but of superior beauty to any other in Devonshire; being, for the most part, either of a dove-colored ground, with reddish, purple, and yellow veins; or of a black ground, mottled with purplish globules. In a valley below the cliff, about four hundred yards wide, there are loose unconnected rocks of this marble; owing their situation, probably, to the falling down of the ground into the sea: for there are very large marble rocks even on the beach. The greater part of this coast is marble. On the northern cliffs we may, in general, see the beds of shelfy rock rising nearly perpendicular to the surface. They appear in many places to have been forced out of their rectilinear direction since their first induration; sometimes only by a small undulation, and sometimes by the strata being broken off, and turning up again in a different rectilinear direction. Wherever this alteration occurs, it has affected all the adjoining strata equally: they are all moved together. I had an opportunity, at Hartland Quay, of observing the nature and course of these strata; the beds of stone here are broader and harder than usual; some of them above three feet thick, and the thinnest above six inches. Their direction seems to be to the south-east; and for the most part, they are nearly perpendicular to the surface. The strata observed at the cliff, very often change their direction: in some places they incline towards each other, tending to the centre, in the shape of a wedge; and when they come near to a point, the strata sometimes run in a different direction, and forming a curve, descend again towards the centre. Some of these strata abut full in the middle of another layer; some run on in a strait line; others form a curve. These sort of strata frequently meet in a sharp edge on the summit of the hills; of which I observed an instance on the hill over Swimbridge, in the upper road between Barnstaple and South-Moulton, where the rock being bare, and the strata almost uniting in a point, exactly resembles a pavement."* This general account of the dislocated

* History of Devonshire, Vol. I. p. 49.

Digitized by Google

located situation of the strata, is a sufficient proof of the violence of the changes which the country must have undergone; though many other circumstances, in corroboration of the same fact, could be adduced, if it were in any degree necessary.

In describing the minerals, we shall first mention those belonging to the CALCAREOUS GENUS, as being most abundant. *Lime-stone* of almost every description is found in different parts of the county; and many quarries have been opened, to procure it for the purposes of building, agriculture, and ornament. In the eastern part of Devon, it approaches to the nature of chalk, and, in general, is scarcely susceptible of a polish: in other parts, and particularly in the South-Hams, it assumes the qualities of *marble*, and, for hardness and beautiful veinings, resembles the best marbles of Italy; and when polished, is hardly inferior in lustre. In the parish of South-Moulton are many quarries of black marble, variegated with small streaks of white, which takes a fine polish, but is mostly burnt into lime. The marble which is not black, is in general of a flesh-color, having brownish veins of different shades: this is most abundant in the north of Devon. At Bickerton, near Ashburton, are several varieties: white, with pale brown streaks; pale-red, and ash-colored, with white veins; black, with yellow and white veins; and ash-colored, with white veins and yellow spots. At Denbury, the marble is blue, and red; in the neighbourhood of Berry-Pomeroy, finely variegated; at Plymouth, of a blackish grey color, with white shades in concentric stripes, interspersed with irregular red spots, and of an ash-color, with black veins; at Mary-Church, of many varieties: one kind resembling porphyry, very rich, of a dove-colored ground, pervaded with reddish, purple, and yellow veins, intimately blended: another sort, with a black ground, variegated with purplish globules, called the Devonshire blood-stone: in some specimens of this marble, are impressions of marine shell-fish; and particularly of the ramifications of *polipi*. *Gypsum* is obtained in various parts of the county, but is not particularly abundant: near Plymouth, it appears in union with the lime-stone: and is also found at Salcombe-Regis, and many places in the lime-stone district, south-west of Exeter. In the mines of Beer-Ferris, *fluor-*

spar

Digitized by Google

spar is procured in great plenty, and of several varieties, both as to shape and color: of *stellated spar*, a specimen has been found at Oxton, near Haldon.

ARGILLACEOUS substances are abundant in almost every part of the county. From South-Moulton to Biddeford, thence to Clovelly, and from Clovelly along the western extremities of Devon, the clayey soil greatly predominates. Fine white *pipe-clay* is found in abundance at Wear-Gifford, and in the valley between Merton and Petrokstow: it lies at the depth of fifteen or twenty feet from the surface. In the Vale of King-Steignton, *pipe, and potter's clay* is procured in great quantities; and ten or twelve thousand tons are annually sent from the port of Teignmouth, to supply the potteries of London, Liverpool, and other parts. In some places, it is obtained within four feet of the surface; in others, it drops twelve or fourteen feet, suddenly rising and falling in the course of a few yards: the thickness of the bed varies from five or six feet to twelve or fifteen: above it is uniformly a stratum of coarse gravel, or loose stones. Of this clay the best is, the purest white, and the black. In the parish of Fremington great quantities of reddish potter's clay is obtained, and manufactured into various kinds of ware at Biddeford. *Schistus* is common to almost every part of the county; and consists of a great number of laminæ, differing in thickness, from three feet to half an inch: most of the thin laminæ is very rotten, quickly dissolving into mud; but the thicker beds are sometimes used in building. At Drew-Steignton it is of a black color; and being particularly hard, compact, and disposed in very thick laminæ, is frequently used for paving kitchens and cellars, and also for tomb-stones. A hard and coarse variety, of a blue grey color, is cleft out of the rocks on the sea-coast, near Salcombe harbour, on a high land called the Soars. This is easily split, by wedges, into slabs of any thickness, and to the length of ten or twelve feet: its surface, when split, is smooth, yet not even; sinking and swelling according as the laminæ has been more or less compress. In the east of Devon are numerous quarries of *slate*, which is also obtained of an excellent quality near Slapton sands, and East-Alwington. Large quantities of good slate are obtained

Digitized by Google

at West-Alwington, and annually exported to Holland, under the name of Holland Blue. The slate procured in Cann-quarry, in the parish of Plympton St. Mary, is much celebrated for its strength and durability: the slate of Lamerton and Tavistock is particularly hard and fine.

In the SILICIOUS CLASS are *quartz crystals*, which have been found in various parts of Devonshire, but generally very small. On Dartmoor they have been sometimes met with in the fissures of the granite: they have also been discovered in abundance in the red soil, or rock, at Rougemont-Castle;* and near Sampford-Spinney, in great plenty: their common form is the hexagonal prism, terminating with two pyramids. Amethistine quartz, finely tinged, but of rude and irregular forms, has likewise been found at Sampford. *Flints* exist in great abundance, but particularly in the mountainous tract of Haldon: here, in some parts, they are mixed with a blackish fenny earth; in others, they appear to cover a lime-stone sub-stratum; and in others, a stratum of light-brown sand, which, at the depth of two or three fathoms, is concreted into a substance, of which good whetstones are formed. The white flint is the most general; the black kind rarely occurs; but has been met with on the cliffs at Beer. "That part of Blackdown opposite Taunton, which appears to be composed of beds of clay, loam, and strata of sand, is remarkable for abounding in innumerable

* Some of the crystals obtained in the cavities of this rock, are very pellucid. They shoot from an opake basis in all directions, and are generally hexagonal, increasing from the size of a pin's head to half an inch diameter. They are chiefly without shaft, and present an irregular surface, studded with hexagonal pyramids. Some, however, are columnar, capped with a pyramid; and others have a parallelopepidal, or rhomboidal shaft, with a pyramid at each end. There are, likewise, some very curious groups, in which each crystal shoots from a common central point; the whole forming an almost globular cluster of pyramids. A section of the cluster exhibits some similitude to a six-leaved polyanthus: each leaf formed by a junction of the bases of an acute and an obtuse hexagonal pyramid; the long acute pyramid is opake, and hidden in the body of the group; the obtuse pyramid is brilliant, and appears on the surface.

History of Exeter, p. 8s.

Digitized by Google

rable multitudes of white flinty fragments, both intermixed with the soil, and scattered over the surface: these stones are irregular and angular, and are of that species called *chert*, or *petrosilex*. Some are light and porous, from long exposure to the weather; others more solid and resplendent, with numerous crystallizations on their surface. On East-Down, between Sidbury and Honiton, petrosilex is also found, with the same external appearance, and often crystallized in the same manner. The petrosilex is found likewise in the neighbourhood of Chudleigh, Hennock, and South-Bovey."* The principal kinds of *free-stone* are dug in the parishes of Salcombe, Branscombe, and Beer. "That at Salcombe consists of a sandy grit, closely united, rather coarser than the Portland-stone, and very hard. It is used for the outside of buildings; works very easy in the quarry, and bears the weather well, as appears by the cathedral of Exeter, the outside of which is built of Salcombe stone; and though some of it has been erected 600 years, yet it is very little, if at all, worn by the weather. The free-stone of Beer is of a much softer nature, and finer grit, than that of Salcombe; when hewn out of the quarry, it cuts as soft as the Bath stone, which it greatly resembles: all the vaulted roof and ornaments of the arches at Exeter Cathedral are made of this stone."†

Varieties of *Lava*, here called *iron-stone*, *whin-stone*, and *basalt*, are found in different parts of the county, and bear a striking resemblance to the Derbyshire toad-stone: it exists, however, in the greatest abundance in the neighbourhood of Exeter, and the entire rock on which the castle stands has been considered as volcanic. "That part of this rock which lies deep, is very compact and ponderous, scintillates with steel, and breaks alike in all directions. It has a granulated bluish purple ground, sprinkled with many minute shining points. Its numerous fissures, crossing in all directions, are filled with white hard veins of calcareous spar. Above this the stone is more porous and light, and without veins; its ground inclining to red, is charged with numerous very small specks

* Polwhele's History of Devonshire, Vol. I. p. 62. † Ibid. p. 65.

Digitized by Google

specks of white calcareous spar, or, as has been supposed, of steatite. Nearer the surface, it is still more porous, light and ruddy; and the many white spots, now enlarged, are filled with a soft chalky substance."* The pores of some varieties, which are in a state of decomposition, are filled with a beautifully green malachite; in others, the cavities apparently contain lumps of a black powder, which, on examination by the microscope, with powerful glasses, is discovered to be a mixture of ferruginous crystals and an ochrey earth, strewed with a few specks of chalk. "Out of the schistus near Crediton arises a compact lava, of a purple color, with large crystals of felspar, and numerous crystals of pellucid quartz and black mica, the cavities containing farinaceous steatite: it does not effervesce with acids. In this specimen it is remarkable, that the crystals of felspar have cavities in them, and are filled also with the steatite, like the rest of the stone.†" Specimens of basaltes have been obtained at South-Bovey, Bishop-Steignton, and near Crediton.

Granite, called also moor-stone, as in Cornwall, is met with in various places, but particularly on Dartmoor, where the mountains commence which extend into that county. It generally lies in vast irregular masses; and is here found in great variety, both as to texture and color. Specimens of the red granite are exceedingly beautiful when well polished. On exposure to the atmosphere, it becomes extremely hard; but when first raised, may be worked with less difficulty.

The most remarkable of the *Inflammable* substances discovered in Devonshire, is the *Bovey coal*, the origin of which has occasioned considerable discussion among geologists. It is obtained in the extensive flat called Bovey-Heathfield, which appears to have been formerly covered by the tide, and is supposed to be lower than the level of the sea. Its strata run nine miles to the southward, through the Heathfield, by Knighton, Teigngrace, and Newton Marshes, to Abbots-Kerswell, generally keeping to the west of the beds of potter's clay, which range through various parts of the

* History of Exeter, p. 80. † Polwhele's Devon, Vol. I. p. 63.

Digitized by Google

Heathfield, and sometimes crossing them. "The uppermost of the strata rises to within a foot of the surface, under a sharp white sand, intermixed with an ash-colored clay, and under-lies to the south, about twenty inches in a fathom: the perpendicular depth of these strata, including the beds of clay with which they are mixed, is about seventy feet. The strata of coal near the surface are from eighteen inches to four feet thick, and are separated by beds of a brownish clay, nearly of the same dimensions, but diminishing in thickness downward, in proportion as the strata of coal grow larger; and both are more compact and solid in the lower beds. The lowermost stratum of coal is sixteen feet thick: it lies on a bed of clay, under which is a sharp green sand, not unlike sea-sand, seventeen feet thick; and under that, a bed of hard coarse clay, which has not been bored through."* From the thick bed of sand rises water of a vivid green color, which is said to abound in sulphur and vitriol, and is as warm as some of the Bath springs. In some of the beds of clay are small and narrow veins of coal, shooting through and forming impressions like reeds and grass. The coal that is taken up for use, is obtained from an extensive open mine (having an easy descent for horses to bring up the produce) at the west end of South-Bovey Town. Its peculiar properties are thus described in Polwhele's History of Devonshire.

"Though the substance and quality of the Bovey coal, in its several strata, be much alike, and all indiscriminately used for the same purposes, yet there is some difference in the color, form and texture of the several veins. The exterior parts, which lie nearest to the clay, have a greater mixture of earth, and are generally of a dark brown or chocolate color: some of them appear like a mass of coal and earth mixed: others have a laminous texture; but the laminæ run in such oblique, wavy, and undulatory forms, that they bear a strong resemblance to the roots of trees. There are other veins of this coal, which lie more in the centre of the strata, and abound most in the lowest and thickest bed, the substance of which is more compact and solid; these are as black, and almost as heavy, as

* Letter of the late Dean Milles to the Earl of Macclesfield, 1760.

Digitized by Google

as pit-coal. They do not so easily divide into laminæ, and seem to be more strongly impregnated with bitumen. They are distinguished by the name of *stone-coal*, and the fire of them is more strong and lasting than that of other veins. But the most curious vein in these strata is that called the *wood-coal*; which is sometimes of a chocolate color, and sometimes of a shining black: the former sort seems to be less impregnated with bitumen, is not so solid and heavy as the latter, and has more the appearance of wood. It lies in straight and even veins, and is frequently dug in pieces of three or four feet long; and, with proper care, might be obtained of a much greater length. Other pieces of the same kind are found lying upon them in all directions, but without the least intermixture of earth, or any interstice, except some small crevices, by which the pieces are divided from each other. When it is first dug, and moist, the thin pieces will divide like horn; but when dry, it loses its elasticity, and becomes short and crisp. At all times it is easily separated into very thin laminæ, or splinters, especially if it lie exposed to the heat of the sun, which, like the fire, makes it crackle, separate, and fall to pieces. This fossil consists of a number of laminæ, or very thin plates, lying upon each other horizontally, in which small protuberances sometimes appear like the knots of trees; but they are only *mineral nuclei*, which occasion this interruption in the course of the laminæ; and pieces of spar have been sometimes found in the middle of this wood-coal. Though the texture of this coal is laminated, yet it does not appear to have any of those fibrous intersections, which are observed in the grain of all wood. It easily breaks transversely; and the separated parts, instead of being rugged and uneven, are generally smooth and shining, and even the course of the laminæ is hardly discernible. The fire made by this coal, is more or less strong and lasting, according to its different veins: those which lie nearest to the clay, having a greater mixture of earth, burn heavily, and leave a large quantity of brownish ashes. The wood-coal is said to make as strong a fire as oaken billets, especially if it be set on edge; that the fire, as it ascends, may insinuate between, and separate the laminæ. But the heat of the stone-coal is accounted

Digitized by Google

the strongest, though not sufficiently intense for the mines. When this coal is put into the fire, it crackles, and separates into laminæ, burns for some time with a heavy flame, becomes red-hot, and gradually consumes to light white ashes.* Though the transverse crevices made in it by the fire, give it the external appearance of a wooden brand, yet, if quenched when red-hot, the unconsumed part seems to be almost as smooth and solid as when first put into the fire. The thick heavy smoke which arises from this coal when burning, is very fetid and disagreeable; entirely different from the aromatic scent of the bituminous loam which is found adhering to it, but much resembling that of the asphaltum, or bitumen of the Red Sea. That part of the clay which lies nearest to the coal, seems to partake of its nature, being somewhat of a laminous texture, and in a small degree inflammable: and among this clay, but adhering to the veins of coal, are found lumps of a bright yellow loam, extremely light, and so saturated with petrolium, that they burn like sealing-wax, emitting a very agreeable and aromatic smell."

The basis of the Bovey coal is generally supposed to be vast assemblages of trees, that have, in various and distant ages, been washed by torrents from the neighbouring hills; and on which, from time to time, intervening beds of clay have been deposited. This opinion is corroborated by the situation of the Heathfield, which at some period was probably a morass, and is almost encompassed by the secondary hills that undulate at the feet of Dartmoor and of Haldon; and likewise, by the lightness and appearance of the wood-coal; the nuclei found in it, and the laminæ being taken up in all directions, as if formed of trees laid confusedly across each other. The argument for its vegetable origin may be still further strengthened by comparing it with the *Surturbrand* of Iceland, and the *Piligno* of the Italians, which are unquestionably fossil wood; and resemble the Bovey coal too nearly to admit the supposition that the origin of the latter can be different. The accurate Kirwan observes, that it consists of wood penetrated with petrol,

* The small of the Bovey coal, when thrown on a heap, and exposed to the weather, will take fire of itself.

Digitized by Google

petrol, or bitumen, and frequently containing pyrites, alum, and vitriol. Its specific gravity is from 1.4. to 1.558: its proportion of pure carbon, from 54. to 75. per cent.*

Pyrites is obtained in various parts of the county, and has not unfrequently been found in globular balls of different sizes. A great number were met with a few years ago in the schistus, near Chudleigh, lying at some distance from each other. Several of them are in the cabinet of P. Rashleigh, Esq. of Menabilly, who has described them as follows. "The balls which I have, weigh from fifteen drams to five ounces. They are nearly circular, and resemble military bullets of the same weight: the outward coat is of a brown rusty color, composed of very minute angular crystals, either triangular, or quadrangular: the inside is a very solid shining substance of sulphur and iron, not radiated, like the pyrites found in chalk-pits; they are embedded in a black hardened

 clay,

* "The production of coal from morasses," it is observed by Dr. Darwin, in his Botanic Garden, "is evinced from the vegetable matters frequently found in them, and in the strata over them; as fern leaves in nodules of iron-ore; and from the bog shells, or fresh-water muscles, sometimes found over them; and is further proved from some parts of these beds being only in part transformed to coal; and the other part still retaining not only the form, but the properties of wood. Specimens are not unfrequent in the cabinets of the curious, procured from Bovey coal, near Exeter, and other places." The particular species of wood of which the Bovey coal was probably formed, is supposed to be the *pine;* and a specimen, with the bark remaining, is now said to be in the possession of Dr. Cornish, of Totness. This opinion will be in part confirmed from the following information, obligingly communicated by Mr. John Pering, of Rockford. "On examining the appearance of the ground about one hundred yards from the pits," observes this gentleman, "I was struck with what appeared to me a very material circumstance, and of which it seemed strange I had never before heard the slightest account, either in conversation with many who had been purposely to examine the place as a curiosity, or in any written or printed account. The fact is, I found, just level with the Heathfield, numerous stumps of trees, which appeared to have formerly belonged to bodies of immense size. They were not dug up, but fixed with their roots in their natural position. Their appearance was much jagged; but I do not recollect any evident marks of the saw. I cut some pieces, a few of which are now before me: they evidently have been cut with the axe; and in color, lightness, and texture, strongly resemble *deal*. If so, the species of tree was probably the Pinus Sylvestris, or Scotch Fir."

Digitized by Google

clay, which, from the specimen I have, must have formed and hardened about the pyritical ball after its formation. The pyrites opens and cracks in the fire, but without noise, or flying off. This fossil contains nearly one-third sulphur; the other two-thirds iron, and argillaceous earth: it is nearly five times heavier than water."

The principal *Metallic* substances of Devonshire, are the ores of tin, lead, iron, and manganese. Gold, silver, copper, bismuth, antimony, and cobalt, have also been found, but in small quantities. The tin-works were anciently numerous and valuable, but have in a great measure been abandoned, the mines of Cornwall being considerably more productive; though in the reign of King John, Devonshire produced greater quantities of tin than that county; its coinage being set to farm at 100l. annually, and that of Cornwall at no more than 100 marks.* The importance of its trade in tin, is, indeed, manifested from its stannary courts, and coinage towns, of which there are no fewer than four; Plympton, Tavistock, Ashburton, and Chagford. The members of these courts have the privilege, from time to time, and under the direction of the Lord Warden, of choosing certain jurats to meet in a general assembly at Crockern Tor, in the midst of Dartmoor; with power to make laws for the regulation of the mines and stanneries. "There are numberless stream-works on Dartmoor, and in its vicinities," observes Mr. Polwhele, "which have lain forsaken for ages. In the parishes of Manaton, King-Steignton, and Teigngrace, are many old tin-works of this kind, which the inhabitants attribute to that period when wolves and winged serpents were no strangers to the hills or the vallies. The Bovey-Heathfield has been worked in the same manner; and, indeed, all the vallies from the Heathfield to Dartmoor bear the traces of shoding and streaming; which, I doubt not, was either British or Phenician. Lead was also familiar to the western Britons. That the Danmonians had *iron*-works, is plain from Cæsar, who mentions the *exigua copia* of our iron in the maritime parts: the iron-pits of

* See Vol. II, p. 339.

Digitized by Google

of Blackdown, were, I conceive, originally British, and were afterwards worked by the Romans."*

The *Lead* ore is chiefly of a greyish blue color, but of several varieties. The potter's or tessellated ore, is of a shining, rectangular, tabulated structure, always breaking into cubical granules: another kind is of a flaky, smooth, and glossy texture, breaking into more ponderous fragments; and a third sort is very close grained; fracture, sparkling and uneven, and very rich in silver: the latter variety has been obtained in plenty at the Beer-ferris mines. Some very rich lead ore was discovered a few years ago near the surface at Comb-martin. *Iron-stone* is found in various parts of the county, and in many varieties; yet does not appear to be particularly rich in metal.† Native *Silver* has been found in different substances, and in various forms; granular, filamentous, capillary, arborescent, and crystallized: the lead mines at Comb-martin are said to have produced it in great plenty in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries: and that there were formerly mines both of gold and silver in Devon, appears from various grants made in the reigns of Edward the Third and Richard the Second, with a reservation of the tenths to the church.‡ *Manganese* is chiefly obtained at Upton-Pyne, where it was discovered between thirty and forty years ago. It does not run in veins, but is spread in flat, irregular patches, at no great depth from the surface; and seems to extend from Upton-Pyne, south-eastward to Huxham, and north-westward, to Newton St. Cyres. "It is found in large rugged, irregular masses, and contains great variety of crystallizations: some shoot irregularly; some are plane, and transversely striated; others are streaked, like the lead ore;

* History of Devonshire, Vol. I. p. 158.

† In the year 1667, a large *Loadstone* was sent from this county to the Royal Society, by Dr. Edward Cotton, Archdeacon of Cornwall. It weighed sixty pounds, and would move a needle at the distance of nine feet; but a part of it having been broken off, its attraction did not extend beyond seven feet. Loadstones have likewise been found at Brent, and also on Dartmoor, but of an inferior quality.

‡ Pettus's Fodinæ Regales.

Digitized by Google

and others shoot into hollows, crossing each other every way. The crystals seem to be the metal in a pure state, and are not equally advantageous with the calx, which contains a larger proportion of pure air, the ingredient for which it is chiefly valuable. It is employed in the potteries, but principally in the glass-houses, where it is used to discharge the color imparted by the calces of lead, and for other purposes. It has also been applied, latterly, in preparing the oxygenated muriatic acid, employed to facilitate the operation of bleaching. From 150 to 200 tons are exported annually: the general price is from thirty shillings to three pounds per ton.[a] *Antimony* has been found in several places within the three parishes of Chudleigh, Hennock, and South-Bovey. It is mostly of a dark lead-color, full of long shining needle-like striæ; of a close-grained texture, hard, brittle, and very heavy. *Cobalt*, interspersed with numerous filaments of silver, has been found at Sampford in considerable abundance. About four tons of this Cobalt was taken up, and nearly 1700lb. sold in London. Some of the filaments of silver were almost of the size of a straw, and about an inch and a half in length.

The *Extraneous Fossils* discovered in Devon are of various species and descriptions. "They are generally embodied in marble, sand-stone, or flint; but are rarely to be met with detached from the mass in which they have been immured, and of the perfect figure of the original shell, unless the concretion has been formed in the latter substance." On Haldon, and in the flinty strata of its vicinity, the *echinus* is frequently found: *tubipores* have been met with near Newton Bushel, and shells of various species at Hembury-Fort: many of the latter bear a perfect resemblance to some of the kinds brought from the West Indies. "The most remarkable fossil that was ever found, perhaps, in this county," says Mr. Polwhele, in his History of Devon, "was lately discovered in a bed of stiff clay, on Chapel Farm, in the parish of Cruwys-Morchard. It is called *fossil-bacon:* it is certainly an animal substance: and, if I may form any judgment from a large specimen which I immediately procured, I think I may safely pronounce it to

[a] History of Exeter, p. 93.

Digitized by Google

to have been originally hog's-flesh;* but the bristles on the piece in my possession must determine the question as to what animal the substance belongs. This piece is very light, somewhat spongy; mottled like mottled soap, and evidently of a sebaceous nature. On a slight chemical analysis, it was mostly soluble in spirit of wine, while hot; but separated into white flakes on cooling, in which it

* This singular fossil was thus noticed in the public papers soon after the period it was discovered. "An extraordinary discovery was lately made in a courtlage, on a rising-ground, belonging to Chapel Farm, in the parish of Cruwys Morchard, near Tiverton. The house and estate are the property of Mr. Brooks, a wealthy and respectable farmer, who resides there. It was formerly a monastery belonging to the Augustine friars; and at the Dissolution of the religious houses fell into the hands of the *Cruwys's*, from whom, by various alienations, it came to the present possessor. In order to convert a very fine spring into a pond, to water the meadows below, and also for the use of the cattle, Mr. Brooks dismantled the courtlage, the linhays, sheds, &c. and began to sink an extensive pond. When the workmen had sunk about ten feet from the surface, the strata appearing in a natural state, they came to a spongy matter; it appeared to be a very thick cuticle of a brown color. They soon found bits of bones, and lumps of solid fat, of the same color. Astonished at this discovery, one of them ran for his master, who, upon viewing the place, sent for Mr. Sharland, a person of great experience and practice as a farrier in the neighbourhood. It was then resolved cautiously to work round the carcase; and at last the complete body of a hog was found, reduced to the color and substance of an Egyptian mummy: the flesh was six inches thick, and the hair upon the skin very long and elastic. As the workmen went on further, a considerable number of hogs, of various sizes, were found in different positions; in some places, two or three together; in others, singly, at a short distance. Upon the bodies being exposed in contact with the open air, they did not macerate, nor reduce to powder, as is usually the case with the animal economy after lying two or three centuries divested of air: perhaps this may be occasioned by the mucilage of the bacon. This piggery continued to the depth of twelve feet, when the workmen stopped for the season, and the pond was filled with water. The oldest man in the parish had never heard that the ground had ever been broken; and, indeed, the several strata being intire, renders it impossible to conjecture from what causes this extraordinary phenomenon can be accounted for. The family of Cruwys have a complete journal of remarkable events which have happened in the parish for three centuries; and not the least mention is made of any disorder which could occasion such a number of swine to be buried in such a situation, &c."

Digitized by Google

it resembles spermaceti; but it was easily convertible into soap on being boiled in a fixed alkaline lixivium."

The *Mineral Waters* are very numerous, and chiefly of the chalybeate kind; though they have not in any particular degree been appropriated to medicinal purposes. The strongest springs of this description arise at Gubb's Wall, near Cleave; at Bella-Marsh, near King-Steignton; at Ilsington, in the vicinity of Totness; at Brook, near Tavistock; and at Bampton: the spring at the latter place is said to be more strongly impregnated with iron than any other in the county.

The RIVERS of Devonshire are uncommonly numerous: some of them flow northward into the Bristol Channel; and others southward into the British Channel: being enlarged in their progress by innumerable lesser streams. The principal are the Taw, the Torridge, the Dart, the Teign, and the Exe: the most considerable of the secondary rivers are the Tavy, the Plym, the Yealm, the Arme or Erme, the Aven, the Otter, the Sid, the Axe, and the Lyn.*

The *Taw* rises in Dartmoor, and winding to the north, flows towards Chumleigh, near which it inclines somewhat to the west; and having received the waters of the Moule, which divides the parishes of South-Moulton and King's-Nympton, passes Barnstaple, and turning directly westward, unites with the Torridge at Appledore.

The *Torridge* derives its source from the same district as the Tamar, in the northern part of Cornwall, on the summit of a high moor, and from within a very few yards of the fountain of that river. Its springs are possibly the same; though, from a trifling variation in the height of the ground near the place where they issue, the one has a course of nearly a hundred miles due south, and the other of full sixty miles to the north.

> Torridge, no sooner gotten from his head,
> Is by a turning, crooked, channel led;
> And full of windings, through the dales doth wander,
> Sporting itself in many a wry meander;
> Still gliding forth, altho' it fleet full slow,
> Which way it bendeth lest its noise should show.
>
> RISDON.

After

* The Tamar is sometimes regarded as a Devonshire river, as being equally common to this county as to Cornwall; but it is more generally considered as belonging to the latter from rising within its limits. See Vol. II. p. 366.

Digitized by Google

After meandering above fifty miles, it becomes navigable for boats at Wear-Giffard, about three miles from Biddeford, where it is formed into a very rapid river; and flowing onward, effects a junction with the Taw; and proceeding to the north-west, falls into the Bristol Channel at Barnstaple Bay. The water of the Torridge is, in general, of a dark brown tinge; owing to the moory country in which it springs, and through which it passes.

The *Dart* is the principal of all the rivers which spring from the mountainous region of Dartmoor: Its name is derived from the velocity of its current;* and, perhaps, no appellation was ever bestowed with more propriety. "Rapidity is its first characteristic; and this quality it retains long after it leaves those mountains which inclose its source, as it descends into the rich plains of the southern part of Devonshire. A little to the west of Ashburton, it forms a charming valley, and flows in placid beauty beneath the high hill, which is distinguished by the castle and church of Totness. Soon afterwards, the Dart, receiving the tide, rolls in a majestic stream between bold hills, covered with cultivation, woods, and villages; disclosing new beauties at every curve, and presenting a grand object to the adjacent country, varied perpetually both in its form and attendant features. The eminences which inclose the channel of the Dart, become at last almost mountainous, forming, on the west, a barrier to the southern peninsula of Devonshire, and on the east, to the *road of Torbay*; while the river, winding between their rocky bases, passes the very striking position occupied by the hamlet of Kingsweare, on its eastern

* The correctness of this etymology has been questioned; but it may be observed, in support of its truth, that the river *Tigris* was so named from the same cause. "Heroditus remarks, that the word Tigris signifies, in the Persian language, a *dart;* but makes no particular observations as to the propriety of the name. Now Gesner, in his Dictionary, says, it was, 'flumen magnum appellata propter velocitatem, quia instan vestiæ nimiâ pernicitate decurrit.' As to the *beast*, he describes it as 'animal velocissimum; quod a velocitate nomen habet.' He asserts also, that, in the language of the inhabitants of Armenia, the word Tigris signified a *dart*. Horace too, in the fourteenth Ode of the fourth Book, gives to this river the epithet *Rapidus*."

Information communicated by J. Poring, Esq. of Rockford.

Digitized by Google

eastern bank, and the singularly irregular town of Dartmouth, on its western; the whitened fronts of whose houses, built in stages over each other, and beautifully interspersed with rock and wood, form a curious assemblage of interesting objects. The ivied walls of Dartmouth Castle, with a rustic spire starting out from beneath a bold rocky hill, close the prospect with great majesty, and strongly mark the proud exit of the Dart towards the British Channel."*

The *Teign* is the most eastern of the Devonshire rivers which rise in Dartmoor. Its waters are derived from two springs, which issue from the moors near Gidleigh. Its course is generally inclining to the east. "It is often pent up in deep and narrow vallies, whence the sound of its waters may be heard at a considerable distance: it is increased at every turn, by brooks descending from those coombs which terminate in the heights of Haldon, and the downs of Bradford and Hennock. The country through which it passes is full of rocks, till it approaches Bovey-Tracey, when it glides over a flat marshy ground, and rolling under Teign Bridge, spreads itself into a broad shallow channel, and thus runs on without interruption to the sea. When swelled with rains, its color is almost black; at other times, brown."†

The *Exe*, anciently called the Isc, or Isca, has its origin among the wild eminences of Exmoor, in the western corner of Somersetshire; and after uniting with the Barle, enters the confines of Devon near Ex Bridge; thence flowing near Bampton, it sinks into a richly wooded vale, and passing Tiverton, has its current increased by the streams of the Loman. Soon afterwards, the Creedy, from Crediton, in the north-west, and the Culm, or Columb, from Cullumpton, in the north-east, intermingle their waters with the Exe; and the vale expanding, opens into a beautiful plain, encircled by towering eminences, clothed with wood. Passing Exeter, the river proceeds through a fine range of meadows to Topsham, where it meets the tide, and suddenly widening to an extent of more

* Skrine's History of Rivers, p. 269.

† Polwhele's Devon, Vol. I. p. 23.

Digitized by Google

more than a mile, becomes navigable for vessels of several hundred tons burthen. Hence spreading into a grand estuary, it rolls onward; but its direct course being impeded by a vast sand-bank, called the Warren, it winds to the eastward, and near Exmouth flows into the British Channel. The whole course of the Exe is about sixty miles.

The *Tavy* rises in Dartmoor, and having passed Peter-Tavy and Mary-Tavy, flows through a deep valley to Tavistock, where its banks have a very romantic appearance from the ruins of the abbey which skirt the stream. In its progress from Tavistock, its course is broken by large rocks; and it forms various water-falls and small bays, which combining with the hanging-woods on its banks, produce some very interesting picturesque scenery. At some distance below Tamerton-Foliot it falls into the Tamar.

The *Plym* issues from Dartmoor, about three miles above Walkhampton, and passing Meavy, and Shaw-Prior, reaches Plympton, between which and the old town of Plymouth, it spreads into an extensive bason, and soon afterwards unites with the Tamar in forming Plymouth Sound.

The *Yealme*, the *Arme*, and the *Aven*, rise in Dartmoor, and flowing southwardly, fall into the British Channel within a few miles of each other. The *Otter*, and the *Sid*, flow from the borders of Somersetshire, across the eastern corner of this county: the *Axe* enters it from Dorsetshire: and all flow into the British Channel. The *Lyn* is a small, yet rapid river, which springs in the forest of Exmoor, and forcing its way over numberless huge rocks, rushes into the Bristol Channel.

The whole of Devon is in the diocese of Exeter, and western circuit. It sends twenty-six members to parliament, viz. two for the county, and two for each of the following places: Exeter, Totness, Plymouth, Oakhampton, Barnstaple, Plympton, Honiton, Tavistock, Ashburton, Dartmouth, Bere-Alston, and Tiverton; pays twenty-one parts of the land-tax, and supplies the militia with 1600 men. The assizes are held at Exeter.

EXETER,

Digitized by Google

EXETER,

THE *Emporium and principal Ornament of the West*, as it is emphatically styled by Risdon, is a city of great antiquity; and though its origin cannot be distinctly ascertained, there is sufficient evidence to induce a belief that it was a settlement of the Britons long prior to the Roman invasion. By Geoffrey of Monmouth it is called *Caer-Penhuelgoit*, which, in the language of the Britons, signifies, the Prosperous Chief City in the Wood; and among its other ancient appellations, are *Caer-Isc*, and *Caer-Rydh*, or the Red City: the former derived from its situation on the banks of the Isc; the latter, from the color of the soil round the castle. These names would hardly have been given to it, had it been of Roman growth: and though Camden imagines that it was not built in the time of Vespasian, by whom Geoffrey affirms it to have been taken under the auspices of the Emperor Claudius, the circumstance of its being ranked, by Richard of Cirencester, among the *stipendiary* cities, strongly militates against his opinion: as the Romans would neither have suffered it to become tributary, nor to receive wages, if it had not existed previously to their making it a station. Various other circumstances might be adduced, in confirmation of Exeter having been originally settled by the Britons; and it seems equally probable, that it was anciently regarded as the capital of Danmonium.

The Latin name of this city, as it appears in Ptolemy, is "ISCA, with the Legio Secunda Augusta:" as if, says Camden, "the Second Legion Augusta had been stationed there; whereas that was garrisoned in *Isca Silurum*." Notwithstanding the doubt of Ptolemy's accuracy, thus expressed by an author of established credit, an attentive examination of facts will strongly corroborate the implied meaning of the former. The Second Augustan Legion was commanded by Vespasian, who is now generally admitted to be the conqueror of Britannia Prima, in which province Danmonium was included. The second legion, then, must have been in this country, and that for some time prior to its removal to Isca

Digitized by Google

Silurum; for the Danmonii, who are represented by Richard as the most respectable of all the British tribes, are said, by the same writer, to have fought thirty battles, in conjunction with the Belgæ, against the Romans; and several of these battles were undoubtedly maintained against the troops of Vespasian. In this instance, then, both the authorities of Geoffrey of Monmouth, and of Ptolemy, are in accordance; and there seems no real grounds of questioning the assertions of either. "It was necessary that the country from which the Romans were to derive their greatest revenue, the province most renowned for its metals, should be well guarded, and the nation held in the strictest obedience; and as we hear of no revolt against the Roman power in this part of the Island, it may be concluded, that the number of resident troops were sufficient to prevent insurrection; and consequently, that a considerable part of the Second Augustan Legion remained here for a long period."* Another circumstance in proof of the residence of this legion at Exeter, is the ancient tradition, that it was once honored by the Romans with the name of *Augusta*.

In the Itinerary of Antoninus, Exeter is called *Isca-Dannoniorum*; and is the most westerly station he has noticed: though, from the Iters of Ptolemy and Richard; from the remains of Roman roads over, and around Haldon; from the vestiges of ancient ways through Drew-Steignton, to Oakhampton, and, perhaps, of a road from hence over Dartmoor, by Hollow-Street, in the parish of Chagford,† it is apparent that various *principal* roads ran westward from this city; and therefore probable, that the Romans had other stations beyond it; at least exploratory, if not permanent.

"It must be observed, that Horsley has assigned Exeter *no place* among the Roman stations; but the many evident Roman summer camps on the highest hills around it, untenable in winter, called for a principal *winter* station; and Exeter, from its natural situation, as well as from its history, was this station. Some writers have asserted, that we have no remains to prove it to have been one.

* History of Exeter, p. 11. † Ibid. p. 21.

Digitized by Google

one. On this it may be remarked, that the destruction made by the inroads of the Saxons and Danes, the building of religious houses, for the foundations of which, and for their cemeteries, the old remains must have been removed; the erection of new walls, and the digging anew the ditches around the city by Athelstan; and, in fine, the rebuilding the whole town, since its total erasure by Sueno, King of Denmark, in 1003, must all have contributed to a change, and even to the destruction of old materials, and consequently of our antiquities. Many Roman remains and coins have, however, been found here; and even Roman coins have been discovered in the walls.*"

Among other convincing proofs of the Roman residence in this city, may be mentioned the *Penates*, or Household Gods, discovered, with other antiquities, in July, in the year 1778, and particularly described by Dean Milles; from whose account, as read before the Society of Antiquaries, we shall select a few particulars.

These Penates are of bronze, and consist of five figures, appearing, from their execution, to be the work of foreign artists, and of an early period. They were found in digging a cellar under the house of Mr. Upham, in the High Street, at the corner of Broad-Gate: they lay within a narrow space, and not more than three or four feet below the present pavement of the cellar. The first, a female figure, representing either the goddess Ceres, or Fortune, four inches and a half high, is dressed in a long loose garment covering her whole body: her hair is adorned with a diadem, like those which appear on the heads of Livia, and Trajan's Queens; her hair, tied behind, falls down her back: her left hand is broken off; in her right she holds a cornucopia. The folds of the drapery are so corroded by rust, as to exhibit but very faint traces of the original workmanship. Two statues of Mercury; one four inches and a half long; the other only four inches and a quarter. The former is a perfect and well-proportioned figure: instead of a bonnet, or *petasus*, the wings on his head grow out between his hair, as they do in some statues represented by Montfaucon; and he has no

* History of Exeter, p. 23.

Digitized by Google

no wings on his feet. A long loose garment, doubled on his left shoulder, and passing under the upper part of the arm, is brought over it below the elbow, and hangs half-way down his leg. His left hand, though turned up, as if meant to contain something, is empty; his right holds a purse. The other statue of Mercury has the petasus, and wings on his feet; he is more clothed than the former figure, his garment entirely covering his right arm and side, and reaching down almost to his feet. His left arm is in a similar attitude; but the shape of the purse in his right hand is different. The fourth statue represents either Mars, or a Roman warrior, completely armed, with a high-crested helmet, coat of mail, and boots covering the whole front of the leg: both the hands are broken off. The last of the figures, only two inches and a quarter in height, from the delicacy of its make, the turn of countenance, and the dress of the hair, seems applicable only to Apollo: the right hand is broken off at the elbow; the left holds something like a linen cloth, but so covered with rust, that it is impossible to ascertain its form.

These five penates were found with, or rather surrounded by, a considerable quantity of large oyster shells. There were also in the same mass, fragments of two urns, of different colors and kinds of earth: one of a dark brown; the other, of a bright red; the latter, in particular, very highly glazed, and adorned with fancied borders, and human figures executed in relief. A large Roman tile was likewise found lying on the natural earth, but neither medal, nor coin of any kind; though, on the opposite side of the street, on digging the foundation of a house, about two years before, some small remains of a tesselated pavement were discovered, with a few Roman medals, one of them a Trajan in large brass. With these antiquities were also found some fragments of horns, bones, cinders of glass and metal, and a quantity of burnt wood.

How long Exeter retained its name of Isca-Dannoniorum, is uncertain; though it seems probable that it fell into disuse very soon after the Romans quitted the Island, about which time it appears to have been re-occupied by the Britons who had preserved their independance by retiring to the wilds of Cornwall. They

Digitized by Google

did not, however, continue its masters many years; for Cerdic, the founder of the kingdom of Wessex, having greatly extended his possessions, either by conquest or intrigue, included the most considerable portion of Devon within his dominions; and at length Exeter became subjugated to the power of the Saxons. Under the government of these people, its name was again changed, and the new one of *Exan-Cestre* imposed in its stead. This compound, originating in the *Ceaster*, *Cestre*, or Castle, which had been erected here, and to its situation near the Exe, has been softened into Exeter, through the various appellations of *Exceaster*, *Excester*, and *Exceter*.

This city has been several times besieged; but the greatest calamities it has experienced, were inflicted by the Danes, who, in the reign of Alfred, in violation of a solemn treaty, surprised and routed the King's horsemen, and mounting their steeds, rode to Exeter, and remained there for the winter.* "Alfred being now fully convinced that nothing could preserve his country from being conquered, but a brave resistance, collected all his forces, and invested Exeter by land; while a fleet, which he had prepared and manned chiefly with Frisian pirates, blocked up the harbour. This fleet having happily defeated a Danish squadron, which brought a reinforcement to the besieged, the Danes in Exeter capitulated, and agreed to evacuate that city, and all the territories of the West Saxons."†

Between the period of the death of Alfred and the reign of Athelstan, the Cornish or Western Britons had recovered possession of Exeter; but the latter Monarch having defeated and driven them beyond the Tamar, they were never afterwards able successfully to oppose the Saxon arms. Athelstan, to secure his conquests, surrounded Exeter with a wall of hewn stones, defended by towers; and under his auspices, says Malmsbury, "it became such a place of trade, that it abounded with opulence." He adds also, that many other remarkable works of Athelstan were to be seen in the city and its neighbourhood.‡

When

* Anno 876. See Turner's History of the Anglo Saxons.

† Henry's History, Vol. I.

‡ It appears from Wilkins's Leges Angl. that Athelstan held one of his legislative gemots at Exeter.

Digitized by Google

When Sueno, or Svein, King of Denmark, landed in England in 1003, to revenge the general and inhuman massacre committed on his countrymen, in the preceding year, by order of King Ethelred, Exeter became the first sacrifice to his vengeance. Though bravely defended during two months, it was at last delivered up through the treachery of Hugh, its Norman governor: its inhabitants were then put to the sword without mercy, and most of its buildings destroyed by fire. Scarcely was this calamity forgotten, when it was again besieged by the army of William the Conqueror, and part of the walls falling, obliged to surrender. Holinshed intimates, that the citizens made only a show of opposition; but it appears from Hooker, that their resistance was more determined; for the King "perceiving the siege to continue, marched, and came himself to the same; but rather came no further than Salisburie. In the meane time the citizens were advertised how the whole realme had yeelded, and seeing also how their confederats did dailie shrinke awaie from them, and by that meanes they to grow weaker and weaker, and therefore the lesse able to withstand so great a force, and to keepe out so puissant an armie as was round about them; and considering also, that small mercy or favor should they find, if the citie by force were taken; did by way of intreatie offer submission, and desire peace, which in the end they obtained: and so paieng a grievous fine, they and the citie were restored. But yet in token of his conquest, the King altered and changed the gates of the castell, and tooke an oth of all the citizens to be his liege subjects."*

In the reign of the usurper Stephen, Exeter was garrisoned for the Empress Matilda, by Baldwin Rivers, Earl of Devon; but was quickly recovered by the King, who forced the Earl to seek refuge in the Isle of Wight, where he was soon after taken, and banished. During the contest between Edward the Fourth, and Henry the Sixth, it again became the scene of hostility; but the imminent dangers to which it was exposed, were averted by the prudent conduct of the Mayor, and other citizens. At that

* Holinshed's Chronicle, p. 1013. Folio Edit.

Digitized by Google

period of domestic calamity, the Duchess of Clarence, Lord Dineham, Lord Fitz-Waren, and other distinguished partizans of Henry, who, with many fighting men, had entered the city, were blockaded in it, by Hugh Courtney, Earl of Devon; but, after twelve days, the blockade was discontinued through the mediation of certain canons of the cathedral.

The next siege which Exeter sustained was in the time of Henry the Seventh, when Perkin Warbeck, the real or pretended son of Edward the Fourth, having landed in Cornwall, assembled an army of about three thousand men, and with this force, *to* use the words of Holinshed, "determined first of all to assaie the winning of Excester."—"Then hasting thither," continues our author, "he laid siege to it; and wanting ordnance to make batterie, studied all waies possible to breake the gates; and what with casting of stones, heaving with iron barres, and kindling of fire under the gates, he omitted nothing that could be devised for the furtherance of his purpose. The citizens perceiving in what danger they stood, first let certeine messengers downe by cords over the wall, that might certifie the King of their necessitie and trouble. And herewith taking unto them boldnesse of courage, determined to repell fire with fire, and caused fagots to be brought and laid to the inward parts of the gates, and set them all on fire; to the intent that the fire being inflamed on both side the gates, might as well keepe out their enemies from entering, as shut in the citizens from fleeing out; and that they, in the meane season, might make trenches and rampires to defeat their enemies instead of gates and bulworks. Thus by fire was the citie preserved from fire. Then Perkin of verie necessitie compelled to forsake the gates, assaulted the towne in diverse weake and unfortified places, and set up ladders to take the citie. But the citizens, with help of such as were come forth of the countrie adjoining to their aid, so valiantlie defended the walles, that they slue above two hundred of Perkin's souldiers at that assault. The King having advertisement of this siege of Excester, hasted forth with his host, in as much speed as was possible, and sent the Lord Daubeneie with certaine bands of light horsemen before,

Digitized by Google

to advertise all men of his comming at hand. But in the meane season, the Lord Edward Courtneie, Earl of Devonshire, and the valiant Lord William his sonne, accompanied with Sir Edmund Carew, Sir Thomas Trenchard, Sir William Courtneie, Sir Thomas Fulford, Sir John Halewell, Sir John Croker, Walter Courtneie, Peter Edgecombe, William Saint Maure, with all speed, came into the citie of Excester, and holpe the citizens; and at the last assault was the Earle hurt in the arme with an arrow, and so were many of his companie, but verie few slaine. When Perkin saw that he could not win the citie, when he saw it was so well fortified with men and munitions, he departed from thence, and went unto Taunton." The conduct of the citizens during this siege so conciliated the favor of Henry the Seventh, that, on his visit to the city shortly after the flight of Warbeck, he bestowed on them great commendations, and gave them the sword which he then wore, as a testimony of his good-will; directing it to be borne before the Mayor on all public occasions. Henry continued in the city several days, examining into the particulars of the insurrection, and either punishing or pardoning as caprice or policy dictated.

The last siege which Exeter experienced was in the reign of Edward the Sixth, when the proposed changes in religious worship occasioned an alarming insurrection of the inhabitants of Devon and Cornwall. The insurgents being assembled in considerable force, encompassed the city on the second of July, 1549; but, after several vain attempts to reduce it, through a period of five-and-thirty days, were obliged to abandon their enterprise; several bodies of their confederates having been vanquished by John, Lord Russel, and other persons who commanded for the King. The inhabitants, during the latter days of this siege, were nearly reduced to famine; being obliged to feed on horse-flesh, and other loathsome viands. Their loyalty, and brave defence, occasioned the King to make a grant to the city of the entire Manor of Ex-Island.*

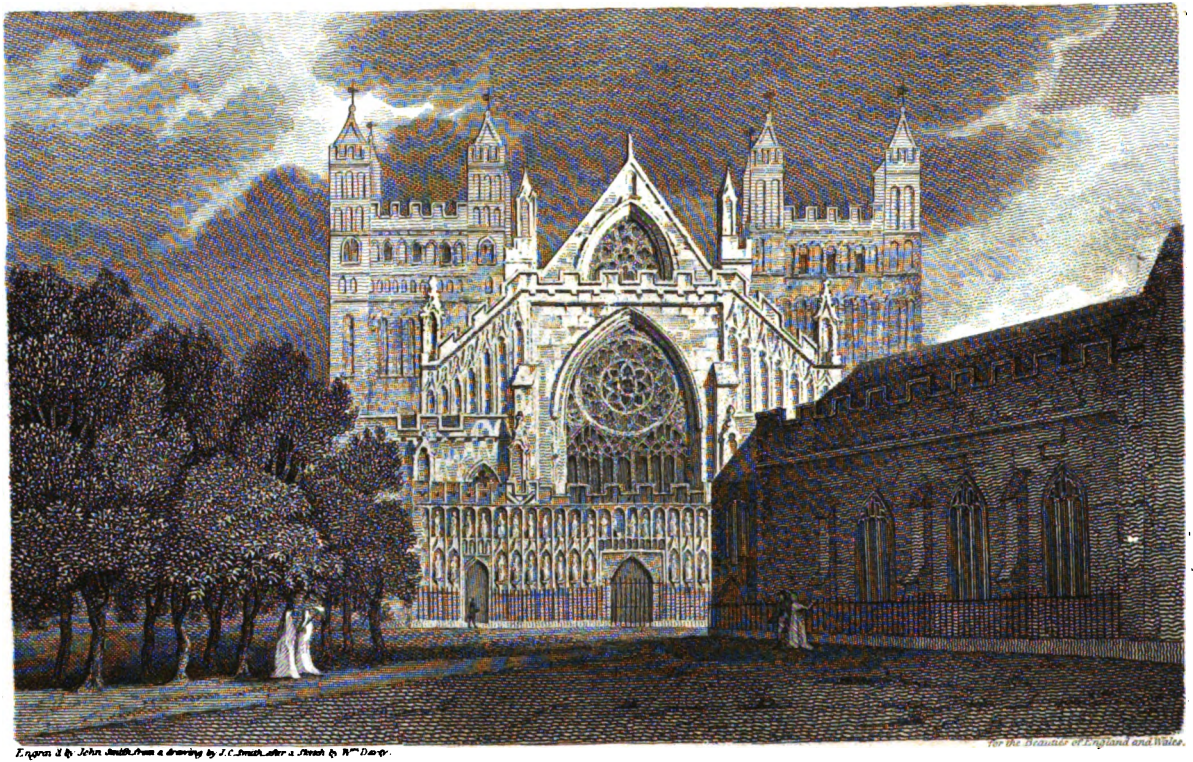
* In Holinshed's Chronicle, p. 1014, *et seq.* is a very particular account of this siege, and generally of all the events of the insurrection, by Hooker, who declares himself to have been an eye-witness.

Digitized by Google

The venerable and magnificent CATHEDRAL claims our first and principal attention among the buildings and antiquities of Exeter. This noble memorial of religious zeal, and national science, is singularly interesting to the admirer of ancient *English architecture.** Its "high embowered roofs," "storied windows richly dight," clustered columns, spacious aisles, sepulchral tablets, and numerous statues, with its various other appropriate appendages, must excite interesting emotions in the mind that is in any respect imbued with a taste for architectural science and grandeur. The variety of styles discovered in this edifice, and the ambiguity, and silence, of our early historians concerning its foundation, have been fruitful themes for various and opposite opinions. The generality of writers, from Hooker, in 1584, to those of the present time, have stated, that St. Mary's Chapel (at the east end of the choir) is the *ancient Saxon church;* and that the whole of the present fabric was five hundred years in building. The subsequent description will enable every person to determine the various eras of

* We apply the term *English* to that style of ecclesiastical architecture, which originated, or obtained perfection in *this country*, and prevailed, with some improving variations, from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. The word *Gothic* has long been adopted, and often very improperly and indiscriminately applied to *all ancient* buildings. It was first used by the Italian writers, as expressive of their *contempt* for that style of building which prevailed in the middle ages, and which was incompatible with the rules of Palladio, and the systematic *five orders*. As science and knowledge advances, writers acquire an improved critical accuracy in language. Hence the Society of Antiquaries have at length adopted the term ENGLISH, and pledge themselves to use it instead of Gothic in all their subsequent publications, when speaking of the pointed style which characterize the buildings of that period. "It is to be hoped," they observe, "no *English antiquary* will be offended at the substitution of an *accurate* and honorable name in the place of one which is both contemptuous and inappropriate." As this authority will strengthen and justify our own determination, we shall henceforth apply the term English architecture to "that light and elegant style of building, whose principal and characteristic feature is the *high pointed arch* struck from two centres, and whose component members are slender clustered columns, large windows charged with tracery, canopied niches, and ornaments, as prevail in the nave and choir of the Cathedrals of Exeter and Salisbury, the Church of St. Mary Redcliff, and the Chapels of King's College, Cambridge, St. George's, Windsor, &c.

Digitized by Google



Engrav'd by John Smith from a drawing by J.C. Smith after a Sketch by Wm Davey.

For the Beauties of England and Wales.

EXETER CATHEDRAL,
(West front, with the Towers & part of St Mary Major Church)
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

of its erection, from the styles which characterize the different parts of the structure.

Exeter was at one period called *Monktown*, from the number of religious houses established within its walls. Three of these were situated within the precincts of the close belonging to the Cathedral, and were inhabited by nuns and monks. The nunnery occupied the site of the Dean's House and College of Vicars. King Etheldred founded a monastery here about the year 868: and in 932, Athelstan founded a second monastery for Benedictines. The latter did not long enjoy their new foundation: for the piratical Danes assailed the town; and the monks were dispersed, to seek safety and sustenance in other parts of the country. But they found a new friend and patron in King Edgar, who passing through Exeter in 986, on his way to visit Ordegar, Earl of Devon, whose daughter Elfrida he had married, commisserated their distressed state, replaced them in their former establishment, and appointed Sydemann, who was afterwards Bishop of Crediton, to be their abbot. This re-establishment scarcely continued seventeen years; for on the conquest and subsequent desolation of Exeter, by Sueno, the Dane, the monasteries suffered in the general wreck. Soon after the accession of Canute to the English throne, the monks were once more settled at Exeter; and in 1019 this Monarch invested them with all their former privileges. About thirty years after, on the removal of the See of Devon to this town, the monks were sent, by Edward the Confessor, to Westminster. Leofric, the first Bishop of Exeter, caused the nunnery and monastery to be taken down, and proper habitations for the members of this Cathedral to be erected in their stead: and, after making ordinances for his church and clergy, and exercising his episcopal office for about twenty-three years, resigned his official and mortal functions in 1073. He was buried in the cemetery of his own church, in a place which is now included within the walls of the south tower. In 1568, a monument was erected to his memory at the expence of the Dean and Chapter.

The episcopal See of Devon was seated at Crediton previous to its establishment at Exeter; but Leofric, who was Bishop of the

Digitized by Google

See, and Lord Chancellor of England, prevailed on Edward the Confessor to remove it to the latter town in the year 1049. The Monarch, in person, with Eadyga, his Queen, attended at the installation, and placed the Bishop in his new See; which at the same time he endowed with the lands and emoluments that had previously belonged to Crediton. The See being thus established, it seems probable that a suitable Cathedral was soon afterwards provided: but whether constructed by the enlargement and alteration of some existing edifice, or whether a separate and entire building was now raised, is uncertain. "It seems not unlikely," observes Sir Henry Englefield,* "that the first Cathedral was not more than about sixty feet in length, and occupied *the site* of the present chapel of St. Mary. That the chapel, *in its present state*, was not the *Saxon* church," is satisfactorily proved by an examination of its architecture.† No particular alteration appears to have been made in the Cathedral before the time of William Warlewast, the third Bishop, who was a Norman, and had been chaplain to the Conqueror, and his two sons, William and Henry; the latter of whom inducted him to this See in 1107.

This Prelate was a liberal benefactor to his Cathedral; and it appears that he considerably enlarged it, and laid the foundation of the present choir: "And to him the towers yet remaining are probably to be ascribed. They are perfectly similar in style to the buildings of Gundulphus, his cotemporary; and much more resemble the magnificence of the Norman architects, than the simplicity of the English Saxons." The architecture of this country was

* In an Account of Exeter Cathedral, with Plan, Elevation, Sections, &c. published by the Society of Antiquaries.

† Mr. William Davey, of Exeter, who has inspected the present building with minute and discriminating attention, contends, that the ancient Cathedral did *not* occupy the site of St. Mary's Chapel, but was on the same ground as the present choir, having its high altar where it still remains. The sanctuary was the most sacred spot; and it is extremely probable, that the religious architects of those times would rather extend their building in any direction, than remove the site of the host. Besides, Hooker only *compares* the *size* of the ancient Cathedral to the Lady's Chapel.

Digitized by Google

was considerably improved by the Normans; and our churches, in particular, seem to have called forth all their genius. "After the Norman Conquest, that style, called, by the monks, 'Opus Romanum,' because an imitation of the debased architecture of Italy, was still continued in England. The extent and dimensions of churches were greatly increased; the ornamental carvings of the circular arches, and the capitals of pillars and pilasters, became more frequent, and elaborately finished."* Though Mr. Bentham, in his History of Ely Cathedral, has contended, that the churches of the Saxons were mostly built of timber, and of mean construction; yet this is satisfactorily disproved by better authorities, who admit, they were of small dimensions, but commonly built of stone. The proud Normans not only extended their cathedrals in length, breadth, and height, and enriched them with ornaments, but added side aisles and transepts, thereby making the ground-plan assume the form of the Calvary Cross. This was sometimes further enlarged by two transepts, as in the Cathedral at Salisbury, then imitating the shape of the Patriarchal Cross.

The original Cathedral at Exeter was altered according to the former plan; and the two chapels, dedicated to St. Andrew and to St. James, constituting the transepts, diverged at right angles from the choir; the first on the north, and the second on the south side. In both of these are some round arches, the characteristics of the Norman style. Hence it appears that the first considerable Cathedral was planned under the direction and patronage of Bishop Warlewast: but how nearly he may have approached completion, is not ascertained. That he extended it westward of the tower, is inferred by a *circular* arch, which opens from the south aisle of the nave to the cloisters. This is ornamented on the inside and outside with columns, having capitals of the same character as some of those in the towers; and of others which are evidently of Norman architecture: whatever grandeur and consequence the Cathedral may have assumed under Bishop Warlewast,

* Dallaway's Anecdotes of the Arts, p. 13.

Digitized by Google

Warlewast, was nearly annihilated during the siege of Exeter by King Stephen, in 1138, when it was plundered and burnt; and the choir is mentioned as having particularly suffered. Bishop Chichester, the successor of Warlewast, is said to have expended much money in the *repairs* of the fabric. These repairs were continued by Robert Warlewast, Bartholomew of Exeter, and John the Chantor; and were completed by Henry Marshall, who became Bishop in the year 1194."* Thus far we have endeavored to trace the history of the Cathedral from the foundation to the completion by Bishop Marshall, when "it certainly," says Mr. Davey, "extended somewhat westward of the towers," and beyond the door of the cloisters, as already inferred. From the death of Bishop Marshall, in 1206, to the accession of Quivil, in 1281, there was but little alteration or addition to the fabric: though Mr. Prince† says that Bishop Blondy, who was appointed in 1245, was "a worthy benefactor to his church, contributing very liberally towards the building of the same." Walter Bronescombe, his successor, built a chapel on the south side of the east end, which was dedicated to St. Gabriel, and intended it to be his place of sepulture. Here he was interred, and his tomb remains. In this chapel he established two chaplains to pray for his soul, those of his benefactors, and all the faithful deceased; for which he appropriated the vicarage of Bokerel, in Devon.

Bishop Quivil succeeded Bronescombe in 1281; and to him we are principally indebted for the magnificence and magnitude of the present Cathedral. "The uniformity of the structure, as it at present stands, seems to prove, beyond a doubt, that the whole, as the uniform tradition of different writers has delivered down to us, was the fruit of one great design; and its singular elegance does as much honor to the taste, as its noble size does to the munificence of the founder."‡ Hooker informs us, that Quivil "first began to enlarge and increase his church from the chancel downwards." In constructing the choir, he appears to have retained the

* Sir H. Englefield. † In his Worthies of Devon.

‡ Sir H. Englefield.

Digitized by Google

the old walls, which were altered and perforated with larger windows, to correspond with his whole plan. The two ponderous Norman towers were great obstacles to the completion of the building with exact symmetry: and the Prelate thought it more prudent to convert them into transepts, than to destroy them, and erect new cross aisles in their place: yet this was a daring attempt, and required great skill, as the architect was obliged to take away one side of each tower nearly half its height from the ground, and construct a large and mighty arch to support the remaining upper part. It now became necessary to have large windows in the towers, to light the newly-formed transept, and to correspond in style with those introduced into the upper part of the choir. One was accordingly inserted in the north, or St. Paul's Tower, and another in the south, or St. John's Tower, in 1286.

How far this Bishop proceeded with the choir can only be conjectured; but it seems probable that he completed the first five arches from the east. In these we discover some difference: for the pillars are smaller; and the galleries before the upper tier of windows do not communicate with one another, as in the other parts of the Cathedral.

"A building of the dimensions of this Cathedral could scarcely be erected in the life of one Bishop. We accordingly find that during the time of Quivil's successor, Button, great sums were in different years expended on the work;* and the choir does not appear to have been finished till the year 1318, in the time of Bishop Stapledon, when 86l. was expended on the altar-piece."† This Bishop was inducted to the See with great pomp and splendor,‡ and

* In 1299 the sum of 170l. 6s. 8d. was laid out; and in 1306, a further sum of 156l. 19s. 1d. for repairs, &c. These were great sums at that time, when "a *master* carpenter, mason, or tyler, were paid 3d. by the day; other carpenters, masons, and tylers, only 2d. per day; and their servants and boys 1½d." *Bishop Fleetwood's Chronicon.*

† Sir H. Englefield.

‡ The enthronization of this Bishop was attended with great solemnity. When he came to the east gate of the city, he alighted from his horse, and walked in procession

Digitized by Google

and afterwards became a liberal benefactor to the Cathedral: for in 1310 the expences thereon amounted to 383l. 18s. 8d. And in 1318, another bill was 176l. 16s. 5d. In an authentic record, he is stated to have made (or completed) the choir, and adorned it with two new images of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Among many alterations and additions made during the life of this Prelate, was the glazing of several windows in the Cathedral with stained glass, &c. "The church," observes Lyttleton, "appears to have been new glazed, or at least great part, about the year 1317, (temp. Edward II.) and both the plain and colored glass brought from Roan in Normandy. Thus in the fabric roll in that year, "DCXXXIX *peciis de albo vitro empt. apud Rotomagens* xvl. xiiiis. ixd. *Item* CCIII *peciis de colorato* xl. iis. iiiid. *in batella ad carriandum dictum vitrum de Seaton usque Exon* xs. In the roll of 1323, twelve feet of colored or painted glass is charged at 8s. and eight feet of white or plain at 2s. 8d. By the latter it appears, then, that *painted glass* was 8d. per foot in Edward IId. time, and plain glass 4d."

It may be necessary to remark, that the Bishops were not the only contributors towards the erection and decoration of the Cathedral: for the several dignitaries of the church,* the clergy of the diocese, and the different religious houses dependent thereon, were all required to participate in the expences. "From the beginning of the fourteenth century to the middle of the fifteenth," Bishop Lyttleton asserts, "100l. per annum, at an average, was expended

procession on black cloth, laid in the street for that purpose. On each side he was conducted by a gentleman of high rank; Sir Hugh Courtenay, who claimed to be steward of his feast, going before him. At Broad Gate he was received by the chapter and choir in their proper vestments. *Te Deum* was sung before him; and, after the usual ceremonies were performed in the church, a great and splendid entertainment was made at his palace, for such noblemen and gentlemen who chose to come. "It is incredible," says Hooker, "how many oxen; and tons of ale and wine, are said to have been spent in this kind of solemnity; even more than a year's revenue of the see would pay for."

* The following sums are charged on the rolls: "6l. 7s. 4d. de dignitate Decani; 3l. de dignitate Presentoris; 38 sol. de Cancellar. 64 sol. de Thesaurar." &c.

Digitized by Google

expended in this work: and if we allow the value of money to be as ten to one compared with the present time, and at less I think it cannot be estimated, the yearly amount will be 1000l. per annum; not to mention that from the Saxon age down to the reign of Henry the VIth, a penny was equal in weight to three-pence; consequently one shilling was three shillings, and one pound, three pounds," &c.

Bishop Stapledon, as we have already seen, was ushered into the See with extraordinary splendor; and continued in it from 1307 to 1326. He was of a noble family; and being highly in favor with Edward the Second, was chosen one of the privy council, and afterwards Lord Chancellor of England. In these high offices, his income must have been considerable; yet his generosity was proportionate to his wealth; and the Cathedral appears to have been much improved by his bounty: but the distraction of the times proved fatal to his loyalty and his life. During the King's journey to Bristol, he committed the government of the city of London to the Bishop: but Queen Isabel, and her paramour Mortimer, who had just returned from France, approached the city with an army, and, in the midst of the anarchy and riot which ensued, the good Bishop was sacrificed by the mob, who forced him to the cross in Cheapside, and there beheaded him, with his brother, Sir Richard Stapledon, Knight. His body was first interred in "a heap of sand" near Essex House, Temple Bar; but afterwards taken up by order of the Queen, and conveyed to Exeter. He was now interred with great pomp on the north side of the high altar, the 28th of March, 1327. A sumptuous monument was erected to his memory: this displays the fine style of ornamental architecture which characterized that period. In the north aisle, opposite the Bishop's, is another monument to Sir Richard Stapledon.

The Cathedral appears to have been totally neglected from Stapledon's death till the time of Bishop Grandison, who was consecrated at Rome the 18th of October, 1327. Afterwards being appointed Nuncio or Ambassador from the Pope to Edward the Third, that Monarch preferred him to the See of Exeter. Leland informs

Digitized by Google

informs us, " that he enlarged the west part, making seven arches, where the plot (or plan) was made but of five; and that he also volted the whole body, or nave, with stone." From this description, all writers, from Leland to the present time, have only given this Bishop credit for the building of *two arches*, the front screen, and the vaulting. But, by referring to the fabric rolls, quoted by Bishop Lyttleton, it will appear that something more was done to the nave than erecting *two* arches, or four columns. This document is to the following purport: " On the day of the Sabbath next after the feast of St. Vincent, A. D. 1332, *William Cannon*, of Corfe," (in the Isle of Purbeck,) " compounded with the Lords, the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, on account of marble, as well for himself as his father. * * * * * * * * to the fabrick of the nave of the Church of St. Peter in Exeter; that is to say, concerning *eleven pillars* and half:—For the great, the price of the pillar 10l. 16s. making the sum of 124l. 4s. also a pair of pillars for the bases and capitals * * * 15l. the price of every base, with the capital and pillar, 5s: also for twenty-nine pillars for the cloister: the price of the pillar, 9d: in the whole 140l. 5s. 9d. We are bound to repair the whole marble aforesaid, and to supply the defects of it, at the time of going on of the works, at a reasonable warning."

By this record it appears, that *five arches* on each side of the nave, towards the west, were added by this Bishop. This supposition derives additional force, from comparing the ten western pillars with those contiguous to the organ screen. The former are constructed with *larger* stones, and rise from a base of freestone, which projects beyond the pillars, for the purpose of affording kneeling or sitting room; and though the eastern pillars have similar bases, yet they appear to have been *added after* (and secured with cramps of iron)* the pillars were fixed. Thus we account for ten " new pillars in the nave;" and two half pillars are attached to the wall of the western front, which will nearly make up the quantity contracted for by the above agreement, in 1332. Besides, if we attentively examine the external parts of the nave, we shall

* Davey.

Digitized by Google

shall find other differences in the style of building, which serve to strengthen our arguments. The five pinnacles* and buttresses to the west, are materially different from the others: and the parapet wall also varies from that of the choir. In addition to the extension of the nave, it appears that Bishop Grandison "vaulted the whole roof of the nave," and decorated the west front with a magnificent external screen, or façade, which is profusely ornamented with niches, tracery, statues, &c. but it is probable that this part was added after the completion of the front, as it projects beyond the wall, obscures a part of the great west window, and is greatly dissimilar in style and character to any other part of the building. He also made some additions to the cloisters; and constructed an elegant chapel for himself behind his elaborate screen.

This magnificent façade is thus particularly described in the description of the Cathedral, published by the Society of Antiquaries. "It is divided into three parts, separated in some degree by two projecting parts or buttresses; but both of them comprehended in the regular design. In the centre part is the principal entrance into the church; and on the right of it are the small windows of Bishop Grandison's Chapel: in the two other divisions are the smaller entrances, which differ in their form. The angles on each extremity of the screen are different; the principal parts of it, are a plinth with mouldings, on which rises a regular number of divisions, separated by small regular buttresses, enriched. Each division contains two tier of niches: the lower one has a pedestal of three sides, with pannels, and embattled at top; from which issue angels, either placed against, or embracing small clusters of columns: they display an elegant variety of attitudes, &c.

"On the pedestals of the small windows there is but one column; though there are three capitals, corresponding with the rest of

* The pinnacle next to the north tower has been lately rebuilt, at the expence of the Dean and Chapter. The person employed, has made it to correspond with the other five, and thereby rendered the pinnacles uniform on the west side. It is but justice to Mr. John Kendall, of Exeter, to state, that the repairs he has made to the Cathedral are highly creditable to his judgment; and we hope his example of *correctly imitating* corresponding parts, will be adopted by every architect and artist employed in *restoring* and *repairing* our *National architecture*.

Digitized by Google

of the several capitals. They support an assemblage of royal personages, who are seated, some in their robes, and some in very splendid armour. Those statues on the buttresses which are standing, are religious; the one that is perfect on the right, a bishop. Over the entrance of the left part of the screen are three of the Cardinal virtues; the fourth, destroyed. The first, from the scales, Justice; the second, from the lance and shield, Fortitude; the third, from the religious dress, and the hart in her hands, Discipline: they each have crowns on their heads, and are trampling under their feet prostrate figures, emblematic of their opposite vices.

"In the spandrels of the arch of the principal entrance are four angels reposing; and in four small niches on the side of the architrave, are small statues of royal personages seated. Over the entrance of the third part, issue, from small ornamented brackets, two royal personages; and between them, a griffon. On the returns, or sides of the buttress, are four more royal persons. The canopies to the niches differ on the buttresses, and from the four first divisions on the third part.

"In the second tier, all the statues are standing, except in the niche joining the centre small angular buttress, in which is a royal figure seated: in his right hand, the remains of a sceptre; and in the other, a book: his foot on a globe, which is divided into three parts: below is a shield, with the arms of the see, quartered with the old Saxon Kings, supported by two kneeling angels. The corresponding statue is gone; though the shield, with the arms of England, and Edward the Confessor, supported likewise with angels, remains. The five statues on each side comprehend ten of the Apostles, with their attributes. On the buttresses are the four Evangelists, with their symbols at their feet. The rest of the statues which fill the remaining niches, have no particular badge to distinguish them. There are, likewise, four more statues in this line, on the returns of the buttresses; but they have no distinguishing marks. The statue on the angle at the extremity to the right in this tier, is St. Michael triumphing over Lucifer. The heads of the niches differ also in the buttresses; but those in the third

Digitized by Google

third part, alter their design entirely. The line of the entablature continues to the right-hand buttress, and then loses part of its width. The battlements on the first and third parts are of a most uncommon fancy: angels appear between the openings; some playing on musical instruments, and others in attitudes of devotion: the battlements of the centre part and buttresses are open, and much enriched."

From such an ample description may be conceived a pretty correct idea of this highly ornamented screen; but there are some singular varieties in the architecture, which are thus discriminated by Sir Henry Englefield. "The northern side door differs extremely from the southern. The former is much plainer than any other part of the screen, and much resembles, in its decorations, the north porch. The southern door is much richer than any other part; the arch of entrance is singularly beautiful; and the four niches over it are of the most elegant form possible. May it not be suspected, that these lateral parts were erected after the central building? and that Bishop Grandison's screen was terminated by the two projecting buttresses, which divide the present fabric into three parts?"

Having, in the preceding pages, endeavored to ascertain the times when the different parts of the Cathedral were erected, and interspersed the account with miscellaneous information relating to it, we shall now proceed to a description of the whole building.

The Cathedral consists of a nave, with two side aisles; two short transepts, formed by the towers already noticed; a chapter-house; a choir, with side aisles; and ten chapels, or oratories; with a room, called the consistory court. The nave presents a magnificent and grand appearance on entering it from the western door; though much of its grandeur is destroyed by the seats and pews in this part of the fabric. It measures seventy-six feet in width within the walls, and 175 in length from the western door to the organ screen. The roof is supported by fourteen massive clustered columns; from which spring sixteen pointed arches; and above them are two tiers of small open arches. On the north side, over one of the arches, is a projecting kind of stone

Digitized by Google

pew, called the minstrels' gallery, which is ornamented with some figures in alto-relievo, holding different musical instruments. The choir is of the same width as the nave, and measures 128 feet in length. St. Mary's Chapel is 61 feet in length, and between that and the altar screen is a space of 25 feet. The whole Cathedral measures 408 feet from east to west, including the walls; the height of the roof, or vaulting, is 69 feet; and of the Norman towers, to the top of the battlements, 130 feet.

"The stones with which the walls of this noble edifice were principally built," observes Bishop Lyttleton, "came from Bere, near Cullyton, in Devon: the vaulting stone of which the roof is composed, from Silverton, in the same county: the pavement of the choir, from *Kam*, by sea, to Toppesham. Quære, if not Caen in Normandy? The vestry belonging to St. Mary's Chapel, rebuilt in Henry the Sixth's time, of Woneford stone: all which appears by the fabric rolls. The thin fine pillars which are seen in every part of the church, and idly supposed to be an artificial composition, came from the Isle of Purbeck, near Corfe, in Dorset."*

The towers, though very similar in shape and character, display some varieties in their ornaments; for the fascia, or intersecting arches, on the exterior of the north tower, are entirely different from any parts of those on the south; its upper story is more modern, and the turrets at the angles are later additions. The exterior appearance is massive grandeur: and though the architect has diversified† the surface with shallow niches, numerous columns,

* We have inserted the above account, from its being apparently more correct than that quoted from Mr. Polwhele in page 32, as it is supported by a reference to the records.

† These differences will be readily perceived, by comparing the annexed Prints of the North and South Towers. Of these we have given two Plates, from a persuasion, that, as fine and singular specimens of Norman architecture, they will be interesting to the historical antiquary. In them we discover a curious and studied variety in the same style of architecture; and as the period of their erection has been ascertained, it becomes important to acquire correct delineations of their shapes and proportions, with the turning of the arches, &c.

Digitized by Google

Engraved by W. Woolnoth from a Drawing by W. Payne for the Beauties of England & Wales.

South Tower &c of
EXETER CATHEDRAL,
Devonshire.

London Published by Vernor Hood & Sharpe Poultry Augt 1st 1807.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

columns, and zig-zag mouldings to the arches, yet the beauty and lightness intended to be produced by these enrichments, are eclipsed by the style of architecture which prevails in the windows and ornamental parts of the Cathedral.

The *Chapter-House* is a large handsome room, of a parallelogramatic shape; and is said to have been built by Bishop Lacy in 1430: but Sir H. Englefield thinks that this Prelate only built the upper part of it; as "the lower part of this elegant room is so different from that of the superstructure, and so much resembling the architecture of the church, that it is highly probable that Bishop Quivil, who is recorded to have begun the cloisters, did also build, or at least begin, the chapter-house."

The *windows* of the Cathedral are very large, and many of them contain fine specimens of painted glass. They are all of the same shape, yet the architect has ornamented each with a studied variety of tracery, by which plan there are not two windows exactly similar on *either side* of the building, though the windows which are opposite to each other correspond in almost every instance. Though all the windows are adorned with tracery and painted glass, yet the two large ones to the east and the west are more pre-eminently so. The former was repaired and beautified from the bequest of Henry Blackburn, a canon, in 1390; when an agreement was made with Robert Lym, of Exeter, glazier, to furnish the new glass at 20d. per foot; and that during the time employed, he was to have 3s. 4d. per week for his own work, and 2s. for his family. This window is still in good preservation, and contains nineteen whole-length figures of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with some saints, and other personages. Besides several painted figures, there are also various armorial bearings of the Plantagenet and Courtenay families, and different Bishops of the See. The great west window, measuring 37 feet high by 27 feet broad, was fitted up with painted glass, &c. in 1766. The lower part is divided into nine compartments, seven of which are occupied with full-length figures of as many saints; that of St. Peter* being in

* The Cathedral is now called St. Peter's; but it was formerly dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, as appears evident by Leland's account, and by the arms of the See being composed of the keys of the former, and the sword of martyrdom of the latter.

Digitized by Google

the centre. Besides various crests, coronets, mottos, Mosaic work, and other ornaments, this elegant window is emblazoned with forty-six coats of arms, properly adorned with their fields, supporters, quarterings, &c. The upper portion consists of two circular mouldings, including several cinquefoils, quartrefoils, and trefoils, each containing a complete coat of arms; and the centre is occupied with the arms of the King of England.

In the North Tower is a curious clock, given by Bishop Courtenay to the Cathedral. This is worthy of notice from the singularity of its ornaments, and the ingenuity of its mechanism. On the face, or dial, are two circles, marked with figures. The interior circle is marked from 1 to 30, whereby is shown the age of the moon, which is represented by an artificial ball revolving within the circle, and which changes its aspect with the varying phases of that satellite. In the centre is a globe, representing the earth; the figures on the outer circle mark the hours of the day and night.

On the south side of the altar are three *stone seats*, or *stalls*; the canopies and ornaments of which are extremely rich and elegant. "The recess, or back of each seat, forms a semi-octagon, and is adorned with enriched Mosaic work. At the top of the back of the central seat is the bust of a bishop, and in each of the lateral seats is that of a priest. The seats, as they rise, form the plinths for the columns, which are supported by couchant lions. The columns on each side of the centre niche are of gilt brass."* In St. Mary's Chapel are three stone seats of similar character to those just mentioned.

The most elegant ornament of the choir is the *Bishop's throne*; the whole of which is composed of wood, carved in a very delicate and tasteful manner, and constructed to form a light pyramid of arches, columns, niches, pinnacles, crochets, and foliated ornaments. Its height is fifty-two feet.

The *screen*, or *rood-loft*, which separates the nave from the choir, is supported in front by four Purbeck-stone pillars, from which spring the groins of three flat arches: above these is a row of thirteen

* Account of Exeter Cathedral by the Society of Antiquaries.

Digitized by Google

teen small arches, or niches, filled with some curious specimens of ancient paintings. These represent different events in sacred history. The screen supports a large and very grand Organ,* esteemed among the finest instruments of the kind in England. It was built in 1665, by John Loosemore; but has since received many improvements from Jordan and Micheau. This organ has one singularity, which we never observed in any other. Independent of the pipes inclosed in the case, it has some lateral pipes, attached to the side columns of the building. These are said to be the largest in this country, and belong to a stop called the double-diapason, which is an octave below the common pitch. The stops so well cover each other, that neither the reed stops, nor the false ones, (sesquialtera, &c.) are distinguished. This circumstance, perhaps, may account for that purity of tone for which the instrument is famed.†

The *Great Bell* of Exeter, given by Bishop Courtenay, is an object of much notoriety. It weighs 12,500 pounds; and is still suspended at the very top of the north tower. The weight‡ of this

* "The Organ," says Mr. Whitaker, "was the happy production of Eastern genius; and the first that ever appeared in the west of Europe, was sent by Constantine, the Grecian Emperor, to Pepin of France, in 756 The artists of the West availed themselves of the present. Organs were constructed on the Continent, and in this Island, and erected in some of our cathedrals before the middle of the tenth century. And Archbishop Dunstan, in the reign of Edgar, presented the church of Malmsbury with one, in which (according to the historian's description) the pipes were formed, in certain musical proportions, of brass, and the air was impelled through them by a pair of bellows."

† The present organist is Mr. William Jackson; a gentleman whose skill in music, and literary talents, are well known to the public.

‡ Among the extraordinary instances of the singular tastes and partialities of certain men, may be adduced that of choosing enormous large bells. Several are still preserved as curiosities in England; but all of these are surpassed by some on the Continent. The Great Bell at Moscow weighs 432,000lb. that at St. Peter's in Rome, re-cast in 1785, is 18,667lb. Another of 17,000lb. weight is placed in the tower of the Palazzo Vecchio at Florence, and is 275 feet from the ground. The Great Tom of Oxford weighs 17,000lb. the Great Bell of St. Paul's, London, is only 8,400lb. and the Great Tom of Lincoln weighs 9,894 pounds.

Digitized by Google

bell has been strangely misrepresented by different persons who have written concerning the Cathedral; but as Izacke was living when it was re-cast in 1675, his authority is to be preferred. In the south tower are eleven bells, ten of which are rung in peal.

The following Chapels have been erected at different periods within this Cathedral, and have generally become the burial-places of the Bishops who founded them. *St. Mary's*, at the east end, is appropriated to a library. *St. Mary Magdalen's* is to the north of it, and *St. Gabriel's* on the south. *St. Andrews'* is used as a vestry by the canons and prebendaries; and *St. James's*, a vestry for the priest vicars. In each of the two last chapels were two altars. The chapel of *St. John* is under the south tower; that of *St. Paul's*, under the north tower. Bishop *Grandison's Chapel* is between his screen and the wall of the west front. At the south-east corner of the choir is *Oldham's;* and at the opposite angle of the choir is *Spektes' Chapel*. Several of these little apartments are adorned with a great variety of sculptured ornaments.

In concluding the account of this fabric, we shall again avail ourselves of the sentiments of Sir H. Englefield, as being strictly coincident with our own. "It is not easy to quit the subject of this celebrated Cathedral," he observes, "without noticing the singular felicity which attended its erection. During the long period of fifty years, no tasteless or vain Prelate interfered with the regular and elegant plan of the founder. Though the taste in architecture was continually changing, so scrupulous was the adherence to the original design, that the church seems rather to have been created at once in its perfect state, than have slowly grown to its consummate beauty. Even Grandison, who, if we may judge from his screen, had a taste florid in the extreme in architecture, chastised his ideas within the church, and felt the simple grace of Quivil's design."

Besides the Bishops of Exeter, already mentioned, the following have also been interred in this Cathedral: Osbertus, Chichester, Bartholomew of Exeter, John the Chantor, Marshal, Synion d'Apulia, Brewer, Blondy, Quivil, Button, Berkeley, Grandison, Brentingham, Stafford, Lacy, Oldham, Turbeville, Alleigh, Brad-

Digitized by Google

bridge, Walton, Cotton, Blackall, Weston, Lavington, Ross, and Buller. On opening the grave for the latter, in the year 1796, a human skeleton was found, having the bones properly united with wires; and on the fore-part of the skull was engraven the following words:

OPERA
ET
STUDIO
JOH: KITZEN
ET
GODFR: SCHLOZRI
GERMANORUM
1632
ÆTAT
22 ½
FUIS ERIS.

Various tombs, and inscriptions in memory of the above Bishops, exist in different parts of the Cathedral; which likewise contains monuments to Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex; Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon; Margaret his wife, daughter of the above Earl; Philip Courtenay, their son; and to many other illustrious and private persons. In the south aisle of the choir is the following pleasing tribute of affectionate tenderness to the memory of LAURA, wife of George Ferdinand, Lord Southampton, who died in June, 1798.

Farewell, dear shade! But let this marble tell,
What heav'nly worth in youth and beauty fell.
With ev'ry virtue blest, whate'er thy lot,
To charm a court, or dignify a cot,
In each relation shone thy varied life,
Of daughter, sister, mother, friend, and wife.
Seen with delight in Fortune's golden ray,
Suff'ring remain'd to grace thy parting day;
When smiling langour spoke the candid soul,
And patience check'd the sigh affection stole,
The gifts of Heav'n in piety confest,
Calmly resign'd, and ev'ry plaint suppress;
The consort's faith, the parent's tender care,
Point the last look, and breathe the dying pray'r.

Digitized by Google

Another inscription in the nave, near the great west door, to the memory of MRS. MARY IRVINE, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Irvine, who died in December, 1799, is equally pleasing.

Though sacred Friendship deems thy fate severe,
And fond affection drops a silent tear;
Though childless now desponding parents sigh,
Pour the sad plaint, and turn the streaming eye
To thy cold grave—yet o'er each aching breast,
Meek Resignation breathes the balm of rest;
Religion whispers peace amidst the gloom,
While pale Affliction, musing o'er the tomb,
Submits, and lowly bends to Heav'n's high will;
Hush'd ev'ry plaint, and ev'ry murmur still.
Though all lament thy blooming graces fled,
And weep for beauty moul'dring with the dead,
Thy virtues still the kindred wish shall raise
To meet with thee thy God, and hymn thy praise.

Besides the Cathedral, Exeter contains fifteen Churches within the walls, and four in the suburbs; but most of them are small, and present nothing particular for description: it has also several Chapels for different Christian denominations, and likewise a Jews' Synagogue. The ground inclosed within the walls is nearly in the form of a parallelogram, of four furlongs in length, and three in breadth: this space is intersected by the four principal streets, which meet near the centre, and diverging at right angles, connect the city with the suburbs. The whole extent of ground occupied by buildings, is about one mile and three quarters in length, and one mile in breadth. In the year 1769 the walls were intire; but many parts have been since destroyed. Stukeley speaks of them, as being, in his time, in pretty good repair, and having many lunets and towers; various parts of which are still remaining.

Leland, speaking of this city, observes, that it is "a good mile and more in cumpace, and is right strongly waullid and maintainid. Ther be diverse fair towers in the toune waul bytwixt the South and the West Gate. Ther be four Gates in the toune, by names of Est, West, North, and South. The Est and the West Gates

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Engraved by J. Smith from a drawing by C. Dayes. for the Beauties of England & Wales

THE MIDDLE GATE, EXETER.
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

Gates be now the fairest, and of one fascion of building: the South Gate hath beene the strongest."* In the year 1769, the North Gate was taken down, to make a more convenient entrance into the city; and in 1784, the East Gate was taken down for a like reason. The South Gate,† the interior arch of which Dr. Stukeley asserts to be of Roman workmanship, is shortly intended to experience the same fate; and a place has been chosen for the site of a new prison, instead of that contained in the buildings belonging to this entrance. The West Gate will probably remain, as the thoroughfare is now small, comparatively to what it has been; a new bridge having been built over the Exe, and the principal avenue from the west made immediately to Fore-Street.

The situation of Exeter is commanding and pleasant: it stands on the acclivity of an eminence on the eastern bank of the river Exe, which flows in a semi-circular direction round the south-west side of the city. "What adds to its wholesomeness and cleanliness," says Stukeley, "is, that the ground is higher in a ridge along the middle of its length declining on both sides. Further, on the south-west and north-west sides, it is precipitous; so that with the river, the walls, the declivity of ground, and ditch without side, 'twas a place of very great strength, and well chose for a frontier." In the highest part of the city, on the north side, stand the remains of *Rougemont Castle*,‡ formerly the seat of the West Saxon Kings, and afterwards of the Dukes of Exeter. This building has little to recommend it, but its antiquity, and pleasant situation. The ruins of the exterior walls are nearly all that remain; these inclose a considerable space, somewhat in the form of a pentagon, and were defended by four towers; two on the west, and two on the east side. The ramparts of the castle command a most delightful view over the adjacent country. The

* Itinerary, Edit. 1744. Vol. III. p. 46.

† The annexed View represents the exterior of this structure, with several contiguous buildings, the appearance of which is similar to that of the generality of houses in this city.

‡ So called from the redness of the soil on which it is built.

Digitized by Google

The city, the river Exe, and harbour, Torbay, and the north-east coast towards Sidmouth and Lyme, as well as the intermediate lands, through a circumference of fifty or sixty miles, are beautifully spread out before the eye, and present as richly a diversified prospect as can be seen in almost any part of the kingdom. When the Castle was erected is unknown; though Grafton's tale, that it was built by Julius Cæsar, is unquestionably false. William the Conqueror " either rebuilt or much repaired the whole edifice, and bestowed it on Baldwin de Briono, husband of Albreda, his niece, whose descendants, by the female line, enjoyed it, together with the office of Sheriff of Devon, which seems to have been annexed to it, till the fourteenth of Henry the Third, when that Prince resuming into his own hands sundry castles and forts in this realm, dispossessed Robert de Courtney, in whose family it had been for three descents. In the reign of Henry the Fourth, John Holland, Duke of Exeter, had a fine mansion within the Castle, of which no traces are remaining. In the year 1413, the city being visited by Richard the Third, he was, during his stay, nobly entertained by the Corporation. On seeing the castle, he commended it highly, both for its strength and beauty of situation; but hearing it was named Rougemont, which, from the similarity of the sound, mistaking for Richmond, he suddenly grew sad, saying, that 'The end of his days approached; a prophecy having declared that he should not long survive the sight of Richmond.' In the year 1588, at the Lent Assizes held here, an infectious distemper, brought by some Portuguese prisoners of war, confined in the castle, destroyed Sir John Chichester, the Judge; eight Justices; eleven, out of the twelve, impannelled Jurors; and divers other persons assembled in the court on this occasion."* Here also, John Penruddocke, and Hugh Grove, two zealous Wiltshire royalists, who had ineffectually attempted to restore Charles the Second, during the Protectorate of Cromwell, were, by order of the latter, beheaded. The Castle was completely ruined during the Civil Wars, " when the city withstood a blockade of two months against Fairfax,

* Shaw's Tour to the West of England, p. 345.

Digitized by Google

Fairfax, one of whose forts remains in a field to the north."* Within the area inclosed by the walls, a small chapel was erected by the Lady Elizabeth de Fortibus, Countess of Devon, who endowed it with lands, called the Prebends of Hays and Catton, for the payment of certain weekly services therein to be performed. A Sessions House has also been erected within the area on the north-west side: this is of Portland-stone, and was built but a few years ago. The ancient sally-port was in that part of the castle walls destroyed to make room for the new edifice; at the time of building which, the ditch that surrounded the fortress was completely filled up, as many portions of it had been previously. The care of the walks on the north of the Castle-hill, is entrusted by the Corporation to twelve poor aged alms-women. On the site of the ditch, near the Castle-gate, are some extremely pleasant gardens belonging to Mr. Granger, which, though not large, deserve attention from the disposition of the grounds, and the very extensive and beautiful prospect they command; and on the opposite side of the Castle is a terrace shaded by fine elms, which forms a pleasant promenade for the inhabitants of the city.

Among the ancient buildings of Exeter may be specified one in Water-Lane, which is said to have been formerly the Guildhall, and which Ducarrel, in his Anglo-Norman Antiquities, asserts, was the first Christian church in Exeter. It has been much altered at different times; yet the simple but strong arches which still remain, bespeak its antiquity, and seem to be of the same style and era as that in the South Gate. In the Guildhall, a respectable building in the High-Street, are several valuable portraits of illustrious personages. Among them are those of GENERAL MONK; HENRIETTA MARIA, Charles the First's Queen; and her daughter HENRIETTA, Duchess of Orleans, who was born here in the time of the Civil Wars. The streets and houses, in general, have the appearance of antiquity; though various handsome buildings have been erected within the last twenty or thirty years: many other considerable improvements have been projected, but are for the present delayed on account of the expences. The inhabitants

* Gough's Additions to Camden.

Digitized by Google

habitants are partly supplied with water from springs which rise about a mile distant. "There are also," says Hooker, "within the citie, certein founteins, or conduits, whereunto, through certein canales or pipes of lead, the waters from certein springs, rising in the fields not far from the citie, are brought and conveied. And these waters are of most price, because by the carriage thereof they are purified, and made lighter than are the other waters springing within the citie, and by that means more meet for dressing of meats. Of these conduits two are speciall: the one of them standeth, and is within the cemiterie or church-yard of the Cathedral Church of the said citie, and is called St. Peter's Conduit: the other, being of great antiquitie, standeth in the middle of the citie, at the meeting of four principall streets of the same, and whereof some time it tooke its name, being called the Conduit at *Quatrefois*, or Carfor; but now the Great Conduit."* This conduit was rebuilt in 1461, by William Duke, who had been Mayor of Exeter the preceding year; but was taken down in the year 1778, when a new conduit was erected in a more convenient situation, at the side of the High-Street.

The charitable institutions are very numerous; and no fewer than eight regular schools for educating and clothing, and two for maintaining poor children, besides various Sunday schools, are supported in this city. But the principal benevolent establishment is the Devon and Exeter Hospital, for the benefit of the sick and indigent poor. This laudable institution will perpetuate the memory of Dr. Alured Clark, Dean of Exeter in the year 1740, by whom it was founded, and opened on new year's day, 1747. Since that time many thousand persons have been admitted into and cured in this fabric. Various alms-houses for the decayed and aged, also exist in different parts of the city: one of the chief of these is the Hospital, called the Wynard's, or God's House, which was built and endowed for the maintenance of twelve poor people, pursuant to the will of William Wynard, Recorder of Exeter in the reigns of Henry the Fifth, and Henry the Sixth. This gentleman bequeathed various lands and hereditaments in the city, and

* Holinshed's Chronicle, Vol. III. p. 1008.

Digitized by Google

and county of Devon, for their support. Each person has a neat habitation, with a small garden annexed, and a stipend both weekly and annual. The memory of the founder is preserved by the following monkish verses, inscribed on a marble tablet, placed on the north side of the Chapel.

Hæc nova structura retinens habitacula plura,
Sit permansura per tempora longa futura,
Debilibus simul ac senibus fuit ædificata,
Pauperibus, non divitibus fuit ista beata,
Hanc qui fundavit, donavit, perpetuavit,
Crimina cum davit sua credimus omnia lavit,
Constructor cujus patriæ decus urbis et hujus
Alq: Recordator Wynard heu! nomine Willus,
Sit Domus ista Dei, aut hæc mea non reputetur,
Sic baptizetur, sit domus ista Dei.*
M: C junge quater, fit opus hoc, X numera ter.†
Anno octavo regni regis Henrici sexti.

This possession descended from the family of Wynard, through that of the *Spekes* of Somersetshire, to the *Norths*, Earls of Guildford; and was sold by the late celebrated Chancellor of the Exchequer of that name, in the year 1789, to William Kennaway, Esq. whose son is the present proprietor.

The

* May these new walls, which boast their founder's name,
To distant times his piety proclaim!
Not for the rich these peaceful domes he rears,
But opes their doors when poverty appears;
When pain, when dire diseases pour their rage,
When creep the pangs of slow-consuming age.
To HIM, whose glory fills the eternal throne,
The rising fane he consecrates alone!
Nor is the sacred gift bestow'd in vain,
It clears his soul from ev'ry earthly stain.
Wynard, all hail! though here be thine the praise
To deal with equal hand thy just decrees,
Yet thy bright name, not to these halls confin'd,
Thy country graces, and adorns mankind.

† To 1000 join 400, and thrice 10.

Digitized by Google

The Bishop's Palace at Exeter is a venerable fabric, standing near the south-east side of the Cathedral. It was built or enlarged by Bishop Courtenay, who held the See in the reign of Edward the Fourth; his arms, with those of England, and the badge of St. Anthony, of whose Hospital in London he was Master, remain on a curious chimney-piece in the Hall, and have been engraved by the Society of Antiquaries. On the north side of the city, below the Castle-hill, is the New Gaol for the county of Devon; and were it not for the massy iron window frames, and its concomitant gloominess, it might be mistaken for an elegant mansion. It is of brick, and has been completed about eight or ten years, at a considerable expence, from the designs of the celebrated Blackburn. Its situation is healthful and pleasant, and the interior of the building is conveniently disposed. Near it are the Barracks, a recent establishment for the reception of cavalry; and sufficiently capacious for about 200 men and horses.

Exeter has been time immemorially, and still is, invested with great privileges. At the period of the Norman Survey, it was found to be exempted from paying taxes, but when London, York, and Winchester did. Since this it has received many charters, and grants of immunities, from different Monarchs. In the reign of Henry the First, the fee-farm rents were granted to Matilda, his Queen: and in the time of King John, "Isabel, his consort, held Exeter in dower, with a fair thereunto belonging." In the third year of this Sovereign, the Burgesses paid a fine of 110 marks for a confirmation of their charters; and about this period, the city, which had previously been governed by Port-reves and Bailiffs, was incorporated, and had a Mayor for its chief officer. "In the reign of Edward the First, the Burgesses and Citizens pleaded that their city was an ancient demesne, and that they held it in fee-farm of the Crown, paying 39l. 15s. 3d. To support this claim, they referred to Henry the Third's charter, made to his brother Richard, King of the Romans; whereby they further challenged return of writs, a gallows, pillory, &c. and a fair of four days, besides three weekly markets; which liberties they certified they enjoyed since the time of the Conquest: upon which they

Digitized by Google

they were allowed."* Henry the Eighth constituted Exeter a county of itself; thus rendering it independent of Devon, and investing it with corresponding privileges.

The Corporation consists of a Mayor, twenty-four Aldermen, a Recorder, Chamberlain, Town-clerk, Sheriff, four Stewards, and several inferior officers. "Civil causes are tried by the Mayor, or his officers, who have cognizance of all pleas, hear all causes between party and party, and determine them with the advice of the Recorder, Aldermen, and council of the city; but criminal causes, and breaches of the peace, are determined by eight Aldermen, who are justices."† The corporate bodies within the city are thirteen, each of which is governed by officers annually chosen from among themselves. Exeter was one of the first cities that returned members to Parliament: the right of election is vested in the magistrates and freemen, who are supposed to amount to about 1200 persons. The revenues of the Corporation are considerable.

The trade of Exeter is extensive; yet would probably have been much more so, but for an unfortunate quarrel between the inhabitants and Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, which deprived the city of the use of its river for navigable purposes for several centuries. The dispute is recorded by Izacke to have been occasioned by some pots of fish; which being exposed for sale in the market-place, were seen nearly at the same time by the *Cators* of the Earl, and of the Bishop of Exeter, both of whom wanted the whole. The Mayor, to whom the difference was referred, adjudged one pot to the Earl, another to the Bishop; and the third he directed to be kept for the use of the market. This decision, and a subsequent determination of the Mayor and council, that no freeman of Exeter should wear any "foreigner's livery, badge, or cognizance, without the Mayor's licence," offended the Earl, who immediately impeded the navigation of the river, "stopping, filling, and quirting the same," says Hooker, "with great trees, timber, and stones, in such sort, that no vessel, or vessels, could passe or repasse." Previously

* Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II. p. 263.

† History of Boroughs, &c. Vol. I.

Digitized by Google

Previously to this occurrence, the tides flowed beyond the city; but they now only reach Topsham, a town between three and four miles nearer the sea, the advantage of which was probably the chief object of the Earl's measures, as that place was part of his estate, and became exceedingly flourishing in consequence. The river was so completely choaked up, that though many attempts were made to restore the navigation, scarcely any thing was accomplished till the year 1675, when a canal was cut from Topsham to the city; and about twenty years afterwards, the present haven was constructed; and, by means of sluices and flood-gates, vessels of 150 tons burthen are admitted to a good quay, formed near the city walls.

The new bridge over the Exe, at the west entrance of the city, was erected about twenty-five years since, after many unsuccessful attempts, owing to the rapidity of the stream: it is a handsome stone fabric, and supposed to have cost between 18,000l. and 20,000l. The ancient building in the south-east quarter of the city, called Bedford House, wherein the Princess Henrietta was born, was taken down a few years ago, and part of a Circus erected on the spot, with a neat Theatre adjoining. Besides this provision for the amusement of the inhabitants, assemblies and balls are frequent at Exeter; and the neighbourhood is still further provided with watering-places, and tea-gardens, where the "busy and the gay" occasionally associate, and alike contribute to the general entertainment. This city has also its literary societies: and a Volume of Essays has been lately published by one of them, which displays a considerable portion of that inquisitive spirit of research, which denotes vigorous understanding, and powerful intellect. The literary character of Exeter is indeed considerable; and many of its inhabitants might be specified, whose mental acquirements does equal honor to themselves, and to their country.

The principal employ of the laboring classes arises from the woollen trade; and the city has derived immense profits from the exportation of serge, kerseys, and other articles, the value of which together has been computed at the average sum of 600,000l. per annum: the chief markets are Spain, Portugal, Germany, and Italy.

Digitized by Google

Italy. About 300 persons are also employed in manufacturing cotton, at a large factory established on the banks of the river. The number of inhabitants, as returned under the late act, is 17,388: of these, 7304 were males, and 10,084 females: the number of houses is 2836. Exeter* had anciently a mint, which, as appears from Stowe, was granted to the city by King Athelstan; and money has been coined here as late as the reign of William the Third, the place of coinage being denoted by the letter E under the bust.

This city has been the birth-place of several very eminent and learned men. Among the most distinguished may be enumerated the poet JOSEPHUS ISCANUS, John Hooker, Sir William Petre, Sir Thomas Bodley, and Sir Peter King. The former flourished about the commencement of the thirteenth century, and is styled by Mr. Warton, "the miracle of his age in classical compositions." His knowledge of general literature is said to have been very great, and his skill in the Greek and Latin languages was particularly celebrated. Camden observes, that his works were as much admired as those of the ancients; and that his poem on the Trojan War had more than once been published in Germany, under the name of Cornelius Nepos. This poem has been since re-printed several times; and in this respect, met a better fate than his *Antiocheis*, or History of the Holy War, which he wrote after attending Richard the First to the Holy Land: of the latter piece, no entire copy is now to be found;† and Leland saw only a fragment in the library at Abingdon; though Camden says it had equal merit with his other.

* The following description of a singular animal, taken near Exeter, is extracted verbatim from the Gentleman's Magazine for November, 1737. "Some fishermen near this city drawing their net ashore, a creature of human shape, having two legs, leaped out, and run away very swiftly. Not being able to overtake it, they knocked it down, by throwing sticks after it. At their coming up to it, it was dying, and groaned like a human creature. Its feet were webbed like a duck's: it had eyes, nose, and mouth, like a man's; only the nose somewhat depressed; a tail not unlike a salmon's, turning up towards its back: and was four feet high. It was publicly shown here."

† Gough's Additions to Camden.

Digitized by Google

JOHN HOOKER, the learned and industrious antiquary, was born in the year 1524: he received his education at Oxford, and afterwards travelled into Germany; but, after his return home, he settled in his native city, and in the year 1571 became one of its Representatives in Parliament. He was the author of several valuable works, besides his History of Exeter, and other pieces printed in Holinshed's Chronicle. He died about the year 1601.

SIR WILLIAM PETRE was Secretary and Privy Counsellor to Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, and the Queens Mary and Elizabeth; and was employed in various embassies to foreign courts; in all which he conducted himself so judiciously, as to acquire considerable reputation for his diplomatic ability.

SIR THOMAS BODLEY, the great patron of Oxford and of learning, was born in the year 1544, and received the first part of his education at Geneva, to which place his family had emigrated, to avoid the persecutions which branded the reign of Queen Mary with infamy. After her death, he returned to England, and commenced student at Magdalen College, Oxford; but afterwards he removed to Merton College, of which he was chosen fellow in the year 1564. He now pursued his studies with perseverance for several years; but wishing to attain proficiency in foreign languages, he commenced traveller in 1576, and, after passing four years on the continent, came back to England, and in 1583 was made gentleman-usher to Queen Elizabeth, who employed him in several embassies, in which he gave so much satisfaction to his Royal mistress, that he was sent as resident to the Hague, where he was admitted into the Council of state. Five years afterwards he returned to his native country, and again devoting himself to literature, formed an immense collection of books, which he presented to the University of Oxford, as the foundation of the wonderful library since termed the *Bodleian;* the statutes of which he drew up, and bequeathed a yearly income for the purchase of books, and support of proper officers to superintend and keep them in order. He died in 1612; and was buried in the choir of Merton College, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory. A Commemoration speech in his praise, is annually made

at

Digitized by Google

at Oxford on the eighth of November, at which time is a visitation of the library.

SIR PETER KING, Lord Chancellor of England, was born in the year 1669. His father was a grocer in Exeter, and intended his son for the same business; but the passion of the latter for learning, happily prevailed over the premature resolve, and he was permitted to pursue his own inclination. By the advice of the great Locke, who was his uncle, and left him half his library at his death, he went to Leyden, and, on his return, entered himself a student of the Inner Temple, where he applied to the law with great assiduity. He also attended to other studies; particularly Ecclesiastical History; and in the year 1691, published "An Inquiry into the Constitution, Discipline, Unity and Worship of the Primitive Church that flourished within the first Three Hundred Years after Christ." In 1702 appeared his History of the Apostles' Creed; a work of great learning and excellence. In 1708 he was chosen Recorder of the city of London, and soon afterwards knighted. The following year he was appointed, by the House of Commons, one of the Managers on the trial of Dr. Sacheverel; and on the accession of George the First, was made Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1725 he was created a peer, by the title of Lord King, Baron of Oakham in Surry; and shortly after appointed Lord Chancellor. He resigned the seals in 1733, and died the same year.

HEAVITREE, about one mile east of Exeter, was formerly called *Woneford*, and was given by Henry the First to Geoffrey de Mandeville, whom the King also appointed Warden of the Castle of Exeter. Mandeville gave it in marriage with his daughter to William Fitz-John, whose descendant, Henry Tilly, was dispossessed for treason, by King John; and the manor was restored to the Mandevilles. It afterwards became the property of the *Montacutes*, Earls of Salisbury, from whom it passed to the *Courtenays*, Earls of Devon; and was then purchased by Walrond, of Tiverton. In the twenty-seventh of Henry the Third, William de Kelly held three parts of a knight's fee in Heavitree; and in

Digitized by Google

his posterity it continued till the year 1773, when the manor was sold by Arthur Kelly, Esq. to John Baring, Esq.*

This parish is distinguished as the birth-place of the pious and humble author of the "Ecclesiastical Polity," RICHARD HOOKER, whose meek disposition procured him the appellation of the *Judicious;* and of the eminent Civilian, ARTHUR DUCK, author of the Life of Archbishop Chichile; and a treatise *De Authoritate Juris Civilis.* The former was nephew to John Hooker, the antiquary, and died in the year 1600, at the age of forty-seven: the latter was born in 1580, and died in his sixty-ninth year. The works of Hooker have been frequently re-printed in folio; and an edition has lately appeared at Oxford in octavo.

HALDON HOUSE, the seat of Sir Lawrence Palk, Bart. is situated about four miles and a half south of Exeter, at the north-western extremity of the Vale of Kenn, within a demesne of 450 acres. It was erected about the year 1735, by Sir George Chudleigh, Bart. the last male descendant of the family of that name, which had long resided in the adjoining parish of Ashton. On the Baronet's decease, his estates devolved to his four daughters, co-heiresses; and in the division, Haldon became, by intermarriage, the property of Sir John Chichester, of Youlston. It was successively sold to Mrs. Basset, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Webber, from whom the late Sir Robert Palk purchased it in 1769.

The house, which is built of brick, and stuccoed, consists of a centre and two wings, after the model (though on a reduced scale) of the Queen's House in St. James's Park. It stands on an elevated situation, and from the principal front commands an extensive and variegated view, to the south-east, of the Vale of Kenn, the Belvidere, and plantations of Powderham, the high grounds above Exmouth, &c. and to the east, the banks of the Exe, Woodbury Hill, Sidmouth Gap, and various other places.

The principal floor consists of an Eating Room, 32 feet by 20; a Drawing Room, of the same dimensions; a Library, 30 feet by 19; and three other rooms, with a principal and secondary staircase.

The

* Polwhele's Devon, Vol. II. p. 22.

Digitized by Google

The Library contains a select and valuable collection of books, to which considerable additions are annually made; and many manuscripts, which relate wholly to the history of the county. Among the latter are the originals of Hooker, Westcote, and Risdon, from the Portledge Library; and all the late Mr. Chapple's papers, arranged by the industrious and learned Mr. Badcock, of Southmoulton; which were purchased by the late Sir Robert Palk at a very considerable expence. There is also attached to the Library a cabinet of medals, from the late Dr. Trapp's collection.

The principal apartments contain some good pictures, chiefly landscapes:

In the Eating Room are two large Landscapes, by Artois, with figures by Teniers. A Game Piece: Weeninx. Greyhounds and Cats: Snyders. A Landscape: Rysdael.

In the Drawing Room is the Return of Charles the Second: Vanderyelde. Skaiters: Van Goyen. Three Landscapes: Rysdael. Two small ditto: Claude. A Cattle Piece: Cuyp. Angel and Shepherds: Wouvermans. Old Woman Reading: Rembrandt.

Portraits of SIR ROBERT and LADY PALK; half lengths: Dance.

MR. HENRY VANSITTART; half length: a copy.

MAJOR GENERAL STRINGER LAWRENCE; whole length, in excellent preservation; by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

The ornamented grounds round the house are extensive; and the flourishing plantations which crown the summit of the hills to the west and south-west, cover many acres. In the centre, on Pen-hill, rises the castellated building of three stories, erected by the late Sir Robert Palk, in honor and to the memory of his friend *General Lawrence*, whose statue, as large as life, on a pedestal of black marble, ornaments the entrance. The General is represented in a Roman military habit, and the likeness is exact. The page of history has recorded the valuable services of this gallant veteran, who, during a period of unexampled difficulty, and with an inferior force, successfully withstood the efforts of France, and, by a series of victories, extended the settlements, consolidated the power, and laid the foundation of the British Empire in the Carnatic.

Digitized by Google

The views from this Castle to the east are diversified and magnificent, embracing the course of the Exe from Exeter to the sea; to the south-east, the English Channel, the Cliffs of Beer and Seaton, &c. to the north-east, the Quantock Hills; to the south-west, Brent Tor; and to the west-north-west, the range of Dartmoor, and the valley of the Teign, with the various scenery of the intermediate country.

The mountainous ridge named *Haldon*, or *Haldown-Hill*,* extends in a direction from north-west to south-east, to the length of nearly seven miles; its breadth is about two miles and a half. The prospect from the summit, observes Mr. Gilpin, in his "Observations on the Western Counties," is grand and extensive, displaying in many parts a picturesque distance; consisting first of the whole course of the Exe, from Exeter to the sea, the city of Exeter, the town of Topsham, and Powderham Castle: beyond these objects, all of which seemed in the distance to adorn the banks of the river, the eye ranged over immense plains and woods, hills and vales. Of these the vale of Honiton, and other celebrated vales, made a part; but they were mere specks, too inconsiderable for the eye to fix on: distance had pressed all their hilly boundaries flat to the surface; or, at least, had so diminished them, that the proudest appeared only as a ripple on the ocean. The extreme parts of this vast landscape were bounded by the long range of Sedbury-Hills, which were tinged, when we saw them, with a light ether hue, scarce one shade removed from the color of the sky: the whole immense scene, therefore, without the least interruption from the hills of the country, faded gradually into air. A view of this kind gives us a just idea of the surface of the globe we inhabit. We talk of its inequalities in a lofty style. Its mountains ascend the skies; its vallies sink down into depths profound. Whereas, in fact, its inequalities are nothing, compared with its magnitude. If a comprehensive eye, placed at a distance from the surface of the earth, were capable of viewing a whole hemisphere together, all

* A particular description of this hill, and of the substances of which it is composed, with some ingenious reasoning as to the origin of the flints which strew the soil, may be seen in Brice's History of Exeter, page 113, *et seq.*

Digitized by Google

all its inequalities, great as we make them, Mount Caucasus, the Andes, Teneriffe, and all the loftiest mountains of the globe, would be compressed like the view before us; and the whole would appear perfectly smooth. To us, a bowling-green is a level plain; but a minute insect finds it full of inequalities."

On different parts of this eminence are a number of *Cairns*, particularly on the Kenn side, formed for the most part with flinty stones. In one of these tumuli, of an oblong shape, some laborers, who had taken a considerable quantity of flints from the middle of it, to repair the roads, in the year 1773, discovered an urn of baked clay, which they broke with their shovels, supposing it "to be a crock of money." The urn was about four feet below the surface, and had been let into the solid earth beneath, to the depth of half a foot: its mouth was covered with an irregular flat stone. Within it was a greasy kind of ashes, that smelt like soot, having small fragments of bones intermixed. About a month after this discovery, a further search was made into the cairn, and a second and third urn were found. "The second urn was at the distance of fourteen feet from the spot where the first lay; and the third urn twelve feet distant from the second. These also contained a black and greasy kind of ashes, and in each of them about a handful of splintered bones. The interior diameter of the second urn, as it stood in the ground, was full nineteen inches, its depth below the surface being nearly the same: its height appeared to be about eighteen inches; but this could not be exactly ascertained, as its neck, above the surface of the ground, was so rotten, that it mouldered into dust on the removal of the stones which surrounded and covered it. The third urn also fell to pieces on emptying it of the ashes."* At a small distance northward from the cairn wherein these discoveries were made, is another, of a circular shape, sixty feet in diameter. This appears to have some connection with the former, a line of flint stones running under the turf between them. Several other cairns on Haldon have been opened at different times, and sepulchral *vestigia* found in most of them.

* Polwhele's Devon, Vol. I. p. 155.

Digitized by Google

One, known by the name of the *Great Stone-Heap*, above 200 feet in circumference, and about fifteen high, was cut through in the year 1780. Within it, at eight feet from the margin, was found a dry wall about two feet high, supported from without by very large stones, in the form of piers or buttresses. Near the centre were many large flint stones, placed over another in a convex manner; and in the middle a larger stone, nearly globular, two feet diameter, covering a cell on the ground, two feet square, formed by stones of considerable size set upright on their edge. In this *kistvaen* was an urn of unbaked clay, thirteen inches high, ten inches in diameter at the mouth, and five at the bottom: the urn was inverted, and covered the ashes and bones of a youth.* On the higher ground of Haldon, between Exeter and Chudleigh, is a course where races are held annually.

EXMINSTER, called, by Leland, a *praty townlet*, is a village pleasantly situated on the west side of the river Exe. This was formerly a seat of the Courtenays, Earls of Devon, who had a very extensive manor-house here, wherein William Courtenay, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born. The only apparent vestige of this mansion is a semi-circular arch over a doorway to a courtlege, or garden.

POWDERHAM CASTLE,

The principal seat of the Courtenay family, is most delightfully situated on the banks of the Exe, within two or three miles of its confluence with the British Channel. Most of its warlike characteristics, its high turrets and embattled towers, have been removed to make way for the more domestic and ornamental appendages of modern times; so that at present it scarcely conveys any idea of its ancient fortified state. "Powderham," says Leland, "late Sir William Courtenes castelle, standeth on the haven shore, a litle above Kenton. Some saye that it was builded by Isabella de Fortibus,† a widdowe of an E. of Devonshire. It is stronge, and hath

* Exeter Society's Essays, p. 123.

† Isabella de Fortibus, a famous and potent dowager, who died in the reign of Edward the First, was the last descendant of the great family of Rivers.

Digitized by Google

POWDERHAM CASTLE

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

hath a barbican, or bulwark, to beate the haven." On this passage, Mr. Polwhele observes, " the assertion, that Powderham Castle was built by Isabella de Fortibus, is doubtless erroneous; for neither Isabella, nor any of the Earls of Devon of the family of Rivers, were possest of Powderham. Powderham Castle was probably built either before the Conquest, to prevent the Danes (who landed at Teignmouth in 970) from coming up the river to Exeter; or else by William de Ou, a noble Norman, who came into England with the Conqueror, and to whom the King gave Powderham." This William de Ou conspiring with Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, and some other lords, to deprive William Rufus of his crown, was detected, and, agreeably to the barbarous custom of the age, tried by a duel at a council at Salisbury, when being vanquished, he was deprived of sight, and otherwise punished. " After William de Ou, Powderham had owners of its own name; and in the time of Edward the First, John de Powderham held it, together with Whitstone, of the Honor of Hereford. Powderham, on the death of John Powderham, came by escheat, or otherwise, to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, who gave it with his daughter Margaret in marriage to Hugh, Earl of Devon, who bestowed it on his son Sir Peter Courtenay about the beginning of the fourteenth century."

The noble family of *Courtenay* derives its origin and name from Atho, a French knight, who built the castle of Courtenay* about the middle of the tenth century. Afterwards the Courtenays became divided into " the three principal branches of Edessa, of France, and of England; of which the last only has survived the revolutions of eight hundred years." The Counts of Edessa, of the name of Courtenay, expired with the fall of Jerusalem. The Courtenays of France became allied with the Capets, who swayed the sceptre in that country, but, after various changes of fortune, terminated in a female in the former part of the last century. The Courtenays of England derive their honors from Reginald, who came into this country in the reign of Henry the Second: of the latter

* In the district of Gatinois, about 56 miles south of Paris.

Digitized by Google

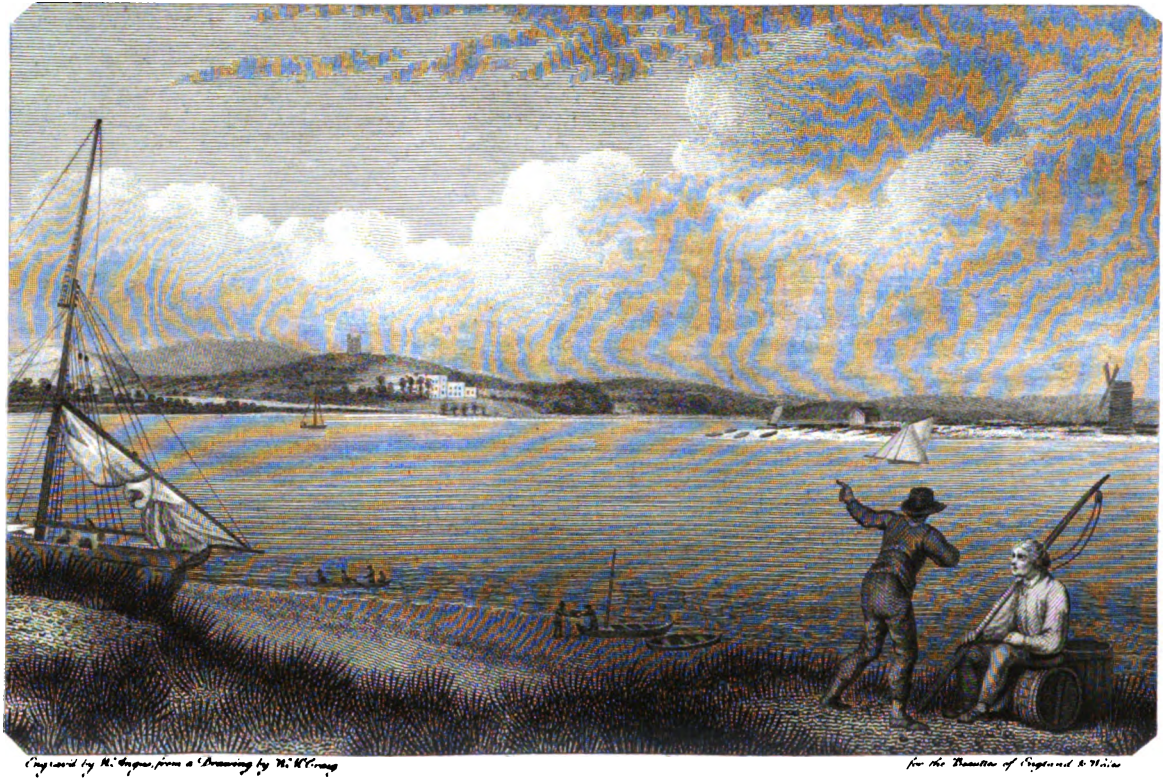
latter branch of this illustrious house, the following particulars are related by the elegant Gibbon.*

" According to the old register of Ford Abbey, the Courtenays of Devonshire are descended from Prince Florus, the second son of Peter, and the grandson of Louis the Fat.† This fable of the grateful, or venal monks, was too respectfully entertained by our antiquaries, Camden and Dugdale: but it is so clearly repugnant to truth and time, that the rational pride of the family now refuses to accept this imaginary founder. Their most faithful historians believe, that, after giving his daughter to the King's son, Reginald of Courtenay abandoned his possessions in France, and obtained from the English Monarch a second wife, and a new inheritance. It is certain, at least, that Henry the Second distinguished in his camps and councils, a Reginald, of the name and arms, and, as it may be fairly presumed, of the genuine race of the Courtenays of France. The right of wardship enabled a feudal lord to reward his vassal with the marriage and estate of a noble heiress; and Reginald of Courtenay acquired a fair establishment in Devonshire, where his posterity has been seated above six hundred years. From a Norman Baron, Baldwin de Brioniis, who had been invested by the Conqueror, Hawise, the wife of Reginald, derived the Honor of Oakhampton, which was held by the service of ninety-three knights; and a female might claim the manly offices of hereditary Viscount or Sheriff, and of Captain of the royal Castle of Exeter. Their son Robert married the sister of the Earl of Devon. At the end of a century, on the failure of the family of Rivers, his great grandson, Hugh the Second, succeeded to a title which was still considered as a territorial dignity; and twelve Earls

* This historian, in his History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Vol. XI. octavo, has condensed the most important information relative to the Courtenays from Cleaveland's Genealogical History of the Family.

† " Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum, Vol. I. p. 786. Yet this fable must have been invented before the reign of Edward III. The profuse devotion of the three first generations to Ford Abbey, was followed by oppression on one side, and ingratitude on the other; and in the sixth generation, the monks ceased to register the births, actions, and deaths, of their patrons."

Digitized by Google



Engraved by W. Angus, from a Drawing by W. M'Cleary

for the Beauties of England & Wales

POWDERHAM CASTLE, &c.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Earls of Devonshire, of the name of Courtenay, have flourished in a period of two hundred and twenty years. They were ranked among the chief of the Barons of the realm: nor was it till after a strenuous dispute, that they yielded to a fief of Arundel, the first place in the Parliament of England. Their alliances were contracted with the noblest families; the Veres, Despencers, St. Johns, Talbots, Bohuns, and even the Plantagenets themselves; and in a contest with John of Lancaster, a Courtenay, Bishop of London, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, might be accused of profane confidence in the strength and number of his kindred. In peace, the Earls of Devon resided in their numerous castles and manors of the west: their ample revenue was appropriated to devotion and hospitality; and the epitaph of Edward, surnamed, from his misfortune, the *Blind*, and from his virtues, the *Good*, Earl, inculcates, with much ingenuity, a moral sentence, which, however, may be abused by thoughtless generosity. After a grateful commemoration of the fifty-five years of the union and happiness which he enjoyed with Mabel his wife, the good Earl thus speaks from the tomb:

> What we gave, we have;
> What we spent, we had;
> What we left, we lost.

But their *losses* in this sense were far superior to their gifts and expences; and their heirs, not less than the poor, were the objects of their paternal care. The sums which they paid for livery and seisin, attest the greatness of their possessions; and several estates have remained in their family since the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. In war, the Courtenays of England fulfilled the duties, and deserved the honors, of chivalry. They were often entrusted to levy and command the Militia of Devonshire and Cornwall; they often attended their supreme Lord to the borders of Scotland; and in foreign service, for a stipulated price, they sometimes maintained fourscore men at arms, and as many archers. By sea and land, they fought under the standard of the Edwards and Henries; their names are conspicuous in battles, in tournaments, and

Digitized by Google

and in the original list of the Order of the Garter: three brothers shared the Spanish victory with the Black Prince; and in the lapse of six generations, the English Courtenays had learned to despise the nation and country from which they derived their origin. In the quarrel of the two *roses*, the Earls of Devon adhered to the house of Lancaster, and three brothers successively died either in the field, or on the scaffold. Their honors and estates were restored by Henry the Seventh. A daughter of Edward the Fourth was not disgraced by the nuptials of a Courtenay: their son, who was created Marquis of Exeter, enjoyed the favor of his cousin, Henry the Eighth; and in the camp of Cloth of Gold, he broke a lance against the French Monarch. But the favor of Henry was the prelude of disgrace; his disgrace was the signal of death; and of the victims of the jealous tyrant, the Marquis of Exeter is one of the most noble and guiltless. His son Edward lived a prisoner in the Tower, and died an exile in Padua: and the secret lover of Queen Mary, whom he slighted, perhaps, for the Princess Elizabeth, has shed a romantic colour on the story of this beautiful youth. The relics of his patrimony was conveyed into strange families by the marriage of his four aunts; and his personal honors, as if they had been legally extinct, were revived by the patents of the succeeding Princes. But there still survived a lineal descendant of Hugh, the first Earl of Devon; a younger branch of the Courtenays, who have been seated at Powderham Castle above four hundred years, from the reign of Edward the Third to the present hour. Their estates have been increased by the grant and improvement of lands in Ireland; and they have been recently restored to the honors of the Peerage. Yet the Courtenays still retain the plaintive motto, which asserts the innocence, and deplores the fall, of their ancient house.* While they sigh for past greatness, they are doubtless sensible of present blessings. In the long

* "*Ubi lapsus: Quid feci?*"—Where was my honor tarnished? What have I done?—"A motto which was probably adopted by the Powderham branch after the loss of the Earldom of Devonshire, &c. The primitive arms of the Courtenays were, *Or*, three torteaux, Gules; which seem to denote their affinity with Godfrey of Bouillon, and the ancient Counts of Boulogne."

Digitized by Google

long series of the Courtenay annals, the most splendid era is likewise the most unfortunate: nor can an opulent Peer of Britain be inclined to envy the Emperors of Constantinople, who wandered over Europe to solicit alms for the support of their dignity, and defence of their capital." The present Viscount Courtenay is the sixteenth in descent from Sir Philip, the first of the family that resided at Powderham, and the twenty-fifth from Otho, who built the Castle of Courtenay, in France.

Powderham Castle* has undergone many alterations since the time of Leland; though so lately as the year 1752, it retained a considerable portion of its ancient castle-like form, and had also a quadrangular court in front, with embattled walls, and a tower gate-way at the entrance. In the north wing was also a library and neat chapel, which have since been converted into an elegant Drawing-Room: many other alterations and improvements have been made by the present possessor.

The interior of this mansion is furnished in the most sumptuous manner; and among the various productions of art which ornament its walls, may be specified a few pictures of considerable merit.

The Tribute Money, by Rubens, is a painting justly admired for its grouping, coloring, and execution. The picture represents Our Saviour with several of the spies who were employed by the chief priests and the scribes to ensnare him. "Is it lawful for us," said these hypocritical emissaries, "to give tribute unto Cæsar, or no? But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Cæsar's. And he said unto them, render therefore unto Cæsar the things which be Cæsar's, and unto God the things which be God's." St. Luke, Chap. xx. Two

* The annexed Prints were engraved at the expence of Lord Courtenay, who generously presented them to this Work. The nearer view of the house from the park, represents the east front, with a large square tower in the centre, and the new music saloon in the north wing. The other view is taken at some distance, looking across a bay of the river Exe, and is intended to show the situation of the house, with the outline of the country, &c.

Digitized by Google

Two pictures; one of Oakhampton Castle; the other, of a Waterfall in this county; Wilson.

View of Whitehall, looking up to Charing Cross: Marlow.

A fine portrait of GEORGE MONK, Duke of Albemarle. It is not commonly known that this great general was an author as well as a soldier; yet, after his death, there appeared a treatise on his own profession, which he composed during his imprisonment in the Tower. It is entitled, "Observations upon Military and Political Affairs, written by the Most Honorable George Duke of Albemarle, &c." A small folio, Lond. 1671. This volume contains some curious matter. It is dedicated to Charles the Second, and includes thirty chapters of martial rules, interspersed with political observations.

A fine portrait of EDWARD WORTLEY MONTAGUE, Esq. by the Rev. W. Peters. This celebrated traveller is represented in a Turkish dress, which he usually wore when at Venice, and where the late Mr. Romney took his portrait. He was son of Lady Mary Wortley Montague, and a man who experienced extraordinary vicissitudes of fortune. He eloped from Westminster when a boy, and was found in the disguise of a chimney-sweeper. After this he went as cabin-boy on board a vessel to Spain, where he became a servant to a mule-driver. He was again discovered by his friends, who sent him to the West Indies. Returning to England, he became a member of Parliament, and for some time conducted himself with much propriety; but another fit of rambling seized him, and he went to the east, where he adopted the manners and habits of the Turks. During his stay at Rosetta, he writes thus to a friend in London: "I am much obliged to you for the compliment you paid *my beard;* and to my good friend, Dr. Mackenzie, for having given you an account of it, advantageous enough to merit the panegyric. I have followed Ulysses and Æneas: I have seen all they are said to have visited; the territories of the allies of the Greeks, as well as those of old Priam, with less ease, though with more pleasure, than most of our travellers traverse France and Italy. I have had many a weary step, but never a tiresome hour; and, however dangerous and disagreeable

Digitized by Google

adventures I may have had, none could ever deter me from my point, but, on the contrary, they were only stimuli." &c.

The Picture Gallery; D. Teniers the younger. This beautiful and highly-finished painting represents the interior of a room, which is supposed to be the picture gallery of the artist, and is decorated with a number of his groups, portraits, landscapes, and other paintings in miniature.

A Landscape, with Travellers halting; Both.

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA, full-length; said to be by Vandyck.

CHARLES THE SECOND, full-length; by the same artist.

The Five Senses, personified in five small pictures; Teniers.

Beside the above, here are many cabinet pictures; and a number of drawings by Lord Courtenay, Mr. W. M. Craig, and others. The miniatures and flower pieces of the latter are executed with much delicacy and taste.

The grounds of Powderham are extensive, finely planted with deciduous and exotic trees, and diversified with some bold swells. On the summit of the highest ground is a tower called the Belvidere, which commands many fine and interesting scenes; and is also a conspicuous object from many parts of the county, and from the British Channel. This building was erected by the late Lord Courtenay in 1773, and is of a triangular shape, with an hexagonal tower at each corner. "The views from the Belvidere," says Mr. Polwhele, "are a complete garden; its parts discriminated with the most brilliant distinctness, yet flowing into one beautiful whole. To conceive an accurate idea of these fine peculiarities, we ascend the stair-case of the Belvidere, and separately survey the *three different parts* from the *three windows* of its elegant room." Among a number of other places descried from this eminence, are complete views of the town of Topsham, with its busy shipping; the river Exe, with its windings from the sea up to Exeter; Sir Alexander Hamilton's elegant place, called the Retreat; Lord Heathfield's (late Sir Francis Drake's) fine mansion at Nutwell, with its shady groves; and beyond these the commanding heights of Woodbury-Hill, with its ornamented clumps;

Digitized by Google

clumps; Exmouth, and the pleasant village of Lympstone, with its "rosy cliffs;" the hills of Dartmoor on one side, and the city of Exeter, with its Cathedral, forming an apex to the grouped houses; also a beautiful tract of undulating and fertile country, spreading between Haldon Hill and the river Exe. The park and plantations belonging to this domain, extend through a circumference of nearly ten miles; and the pleasure gardens behind the house are replete with a vast number and variety of flowers and botanical rarities.

"The manor of KENTON was anciently possessed by the Courtenays when Earls of Devon; but devolved to the Crown on the attainder of Henry Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, and Marquis of Exeter, in 1538. This manor, thus in possession of the Crown, was sold in the reign of Queen Elizabeth to Lord Clifton, who, in the reign of James the First, disposed of it to Sir Warwick Hele, who left it to his nephew John, afterwards Sir John Hele; at whose death it fell to Sir Edward Hungerford, in right of his wife, the daughter of the said Sir John Hele. In the time of Charles the Second, Sir Edward Hungerford sold this manor to the Duke of Albemarle; from whose family it next came, in the beginning of Queen Anne's reign, to John Lord Grenville, of whom, or of whose heirs, it was purchased by Sir William Courtenay, of Powderham Castle, Bart. about the year 1712. Thus were the Courtenays again possesst of their ancient manor."*

The Church is a handsome fabric of red stone, embattled, and ornamented with two handsome turrets: at the west end is a tower about 100 feet high, furnished with battlements and pinnacles; in the latter of which are little niches, with images remaining in them entire. The windows are large and pointed. The pulpit is curiously ornamented with carved foliage, and other antique decorations. The screen, dividing the body from the chancel, is rich and light; on the pannels of the lower part, various figures of saints and martyrs are painted, with singular labels and devices. In the north aisle is the following inscription, in letters of gold, upon a wooden tablet. *In obitum Elizabethæ: Petri Atwill generosi,*

* Polwhele's Devon, Vol. II. p 161.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

generosi, uxoris gravidæ quæ nitra primum matrimonii annum histerico morbo accubuit decimo septio die Novembris anno salutis nostræ, 1673.

Under our mother Earth, here lies the womb,
That of her child was both the fate and tomb;
Though lately made a bride, yet soon she must
Exchange her nuptial bed for one of dust.
Well, King of Terrors, now we see thy rage
On infancy and youth as well as age:
If drops of tears the harder hearts wont spill,
On this sad hearse the softer *marble* will.

On a small tomb in the church-yard, is the following epitaph on two infant sons of the Rev. Richard Polwhele, now Vicar of Menaccan, in Cornwall, and author of several topographical, poetical, and miscellaneous productions.

Ah, babes! could Heav'n in mercy give
Your forms to mortal eye,
But a few moments doom'd to live—
Just shown on earth, to die?
Weak man! the vain enquiry cease,
Why Heav'n hath call'd them hence:
Pure from the world, they died in peace,
They died in innocence.

OXTON HOUSE, a seat of the Rev. John Swete, is about one mile west of Kenton. This estate was possessed for several centuries by the *Martyns*, who formerly enjoyed considerable property in this county. They derived their descent from Martyn de Turon, who came into England with the Conqueror, and whose prowess was rewarded by the Norman Monarch, with the Barony of Kemeys in Pembrokeshire. He was also constituted Lord of Combe-Martyn, and Martyn-Hoe; places in the north of Devonshire, which still retain his name. Mr. Swete's father became possessed of this seat in the year 1767. In 1781, the present worthy proprietor took down the old mansion, and built a new one on the same site, which possesses peculiar advantages and beauties. The old house was disfigured with formal terraces, cropt hedges, and

Digitized by Google

yew-tree monsters; but these have been swept away, and their places occupied by a few straggling trees, gently sloping grounds, and a pleasant meandering rivulet; which, after two or three falls, spreads its waters beneath a fine hanging wood. The house stands on a rising knoll, at the junction of three narrow vallies; one of which opens to the east, and admits a beautiful distant country, including the woods and Belvidere of Powderham, the mouth of the Exe, and all the south-eastern part of Devonshire. The two other vallies run up into narrow glens, which are terminated with steep acclivities, richly adorned with hanging woods; and the whole is backed with a high ridge of Haldon.

The great variety of grounds appertaining to this sweetly sequestered mansion, with the umbrageous woods, devious paths, and charming prospects of sea and land, unite in rendering it beautifully picturesque and interesting. Besides a great number of drawings by Payne, a fine one of the Waterfall at Tivoli, by Du Croiz, and a portrait of Sir N. Martyn, by C. Janson; Mr. Swete possesses several quarto volumes of manuscripts, descriptive of Devon, and written by himself, being the result of diligent observation and enquiry.

Mamhead, the seat of Wilmot, Lord Lisburne, has obtained considerable celebrity among the ornamental and beautiful places of this county, but most of its charms have been injured by neglect. The mansion was begun by Sir Peter Balle, an eminent loyalist, who died in 1680, and was interred in the church, where a monument* was raised to his memory by his son and heir, William Balle, Esq. The estate continued in this family till the year 1749, when it was bequeathed to Thomas Hussey Aprice, who soon

* By the inscription we are informed, that Sir Peter was married to Anne, daughter of Sir William Cooke of Gloucester, by whom he had seventeen children, and that his "excellency in all learning, and great knowledge in the law, gave him early preferment:" that he was "Recorder of Exeter at 34; Solicitor, then Attorney, to Henrietta Maria, Queen to Charles the Martyr; and of his Council at 37. Engaging in the troubles of 1641, suffered the fate of loyalty. At the return of Charles the Second, (disobliging the great favorite,) was only restored to his former places, serving his royal mistress all her life, and her concerns three years after; retired hither, and died in his eighty-second year, 1680."

Digitized by Google

soon afterwards sold it to Joseph Gascoine Nightingale. By the marriage of Elizabeth Nightingale with the Honorable Wilmot Vaughan, it came into the present family.

The woods and plantations of Mamhead are numerous and extensive. Many of them were introduced by Mr. Thomas Balle, the last of that family, who, on returning from the continent, brought with him a quantity of cork, ilax, wainscot, oak, Spanish chesnut, acacia, cedar, and other species of exotic trees. With these he embellished the boldly swelling grounds at Mamhead; yet, according to the taste of the times, he either introduced, or preserved, the formalities of inclosing walls, geometrical gardens, and parallel terraces: most of these incongruities existed when the late Lord Lisburne came to the estate, who soon "engaged in the arduous and expensive task of restoring the ground to what he presumed it was before. This has been effectually done; and Mamhead now appears as one natural and extensive inclosure, with various prospects of sea, river, and country. Towards Haldon, the most beautiful plantations of firs and forest trees in Devonshire, are crowned at the top of the hill by a noble obelisk, which was built by the last Mr. Balle. This obelisk stands on Mamhead-Point: it consists of Portland-stone, about 100 feet in height. In front of the house, we cannot but admire the easy swell of the lawn, whose smooth verdure is relieved by groups of trees and shrubs most judiciously disposed; whilst at one extremity the eye is attracted by General Vaughan's picturesque cottage; and a little beyond these grounds, by a landscape which no scenery in this county exceeds in richness. On this side of the Exe are to be seen the ancient castle and possessions of Courtenay, and Kenton, and the village of Star-cross: on the other side, Exmouth, Lympstone, Nutwell, and the Retreat, with the country stretching away to the Dorsetshire and Somersetshire hills. In the mean time the river itself, and the sea in full prospect, give an additional beauty to the scenes I have described."*

NEWHOUSE is the name of an estate and mansion in the parish of Mamhead. It was formerly a very considerable seat; but the present

* Polwhele's Devon, Vol. II. p. 156.

Digitized by Google

present proprietor having long suffered under a mental derangement, the place is neglected, and ruin and decay are making their direful progress on the house, gardens, and every object of art. The manor came into the possession of the Oxenham family by marriage with an heiress of David Long, Esq. who was Sheriff of the county in the first year of Queen Anne. The Oxenhams were anciently seated at South Tawton, in Devon, which place is noted in the annals of the county for having given birth to JOHN OXENHAM, who accompanied Sir Francis Drake as a volunteer in his voyage to South America in 1572; and again in 1575, when he commanded a ship of his own.

The superstition which originates in the belief of ominous appearances preceding death, is singularly illustrated in a traditional circumstance relating to this family. It is said, and believed by many, that every decease is prognosticated by the apparition of a *white-breasted bird*, which is seen to flutter about the bed of the sick person, and suddenly disappear. This circumstance is particularly noticed by Howel in his Familiar Letters; wherein is the following monumental inscription:

"Here lies John Oxenham, a goodly young man, in whose chamber, as he was struggling with the pangs of death, a bird, with a white breast, was seen fluttering about his bed, and so vanished."

The same circumstance is related of his sister Mary, and two or three others of the family.

DAWLISH, written *Doules* in the Domesday Book, is supposed to derive its name from *Dol-is*, a compound, signifying, a "fruitful mead in a bottom," or, on "a river's side." This agrees with the situation of the place, which occupies a delightful spot in a valley, having the sea on the east, and on the other sides, high and pleasant grounds. At the time of the Norman Survey, the manor was possessed by the Bishop of the Diocese, and now belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, of whom it is held under a lease of three lives, by John Inglett Fortesque, Esq. By the custom of the manor, the lord farmer is authorized to grant estates for three lives by copy of court-roll; and the widow of each life dying

Digitized by Google

dying in possession, is entitled to the estate during her widowhood. Dawlish was formerly an inconsiderable fishing cove, but has now become a watering-place of considerable reputation, and appears in a state of progressive improvement. For the accommodation of visitors, a handsome row of buildings has been lately erected on Dawlish-Strand; and various single houses in different parts of the village. The cliffs overhanging the sea, are bold and towering, and give a romantic character to the scenery.

Luscombe House, the seat of Charles Hoare, Esq. is seated in a narrow valley, about one mile west from Dawlish Church. The house is not quite finished; but when completed, will be an elegant mansion, from designs by Mr. Nash, who has endeavored to unite the picturesque, the beautiful, and the convenient. The first is displayed in the external shape of the building, with its battlements, porch, and mullioned windows; and the latter will be found in the finishing and decoration of the apartments. The grounds round the house are composed of a succession of hill and dale; and at a small distance west, rises the steep acclivity of Haldon. To the east is seen the tower of Dawlish Church, and beyond it the restless waters of the English Channel. The southern coast of Devon is much esteemed for the mild temperature of the air: it was this circumstance which induced Mr. Hoare to purchase the estate at Luscombe; where he has employed the hand of art, to render the peculiar advantages of nature subservient to domestic comfort.

CHUDLEIGH

Is a small but neat town, for which the privilege of holding a weekly market, and two annual fairs, was purchased by the Bishops of Exeter, who had a magnificent palace about a quarter of a mile to the south, part of which is yet remaining. The manor now belongs to Lord Clifford, of Ugbrooke: it formerly abounded with wood and timber; and the north-east side of the parish still retains the name of Chudleigh-woods. The views in the vicinity are eminently beautiful. The neighbourhood is famous for cyder:

Digitized by Google

an orchard of three acres, very near the town, is recorded to have yielded a sufficient quantity of apples for eighty hogsheads. The houses are chiefly disposed in one long street, at the western extremity of which is a small whitewashed Church, containing some monuments of the Courtenay family.

Chudleigh Rock, about half a mile from the town, is, in the opinion of Mr. Polwhele, "one of the most striking inland rocks in the Island." Viewed from the west, it exhibits a bold, broad, and almost perpendicular front, apparently one solid mass of marble; from the south-east, a hollow opens to the view, with an impetuous stream rushing over the rude stones that impede its passage, and forming in one part of its course a romantic water-fall, wherein the stream

> "In loud confusion o'er the broken steep
> Abruptly pours, and dashes down the deep.
> From crag to crag the rumbling waters bound,
> And foam, and fret, and whirl their eddies round.
> The rugged bed of huge mis-shapen stones
> Beneath the rude tumultuous torrent groans;
> Whilst aged oaks, by wanton Nature bred,
> O'er the deep gloom their thick luxuriance spread."

Mr. Warner, speaking of the stupendous masses of lime-stone which form the Chudleigh rock, observes, that "Nature, who ornaments with incomparable taste, has relieved the flat broad face of these prodigious elevations with mountain plants, scattering them down the steep; or making amends for their absence, by throwing an elegant drapery of ivy over the parts where she has denied her trees." From the highest part of the rock, the views are very rich, and the scenery is composed of fine hanging woods; and in some places the branches of a picturesque oak form a sort of natural canopy for the contemplative spectator. Midway down the cliff, is a large cavern, the gloomy recesses of which are said in the traditions of the peasantry to be inhabited by *Pixies*, or *Pisgies*, a race of supernatural beings, "invisibly small," whose pursuits and pastimes have been thus delineated by the Muse of Coleridge; who, speaking in the character of the Pixies, says,

When

Digitized by Google

—When fades the moon all shadowy-pale,
And sends the cloud before the gale,
Ere MORN, with living gems bedight,
Streaks the east with purple light,
We sip the furze-flow'r's fragrant dews,
Clad in robes of rainbow hues,
Richer than the deepen'd bloom
That glows on Summer's scented plume;
Or sport amid the rosy gleam,
Sooth'd by the distant-tinkling team;
While lusty LABOR, scouting sorrow,
Bids the DAME a glad good morrow,
Who jogs the accustomed road along
And paces cheery to her cheering song.

But not our filmy pinion
We scorch amid the blaze of day,
When NOONTIDE's fiery-tressed minion
Flashes the fervid ray:
Aye, from the sultry heat
We to the cave retreat,
O'ercanopied by huge roots, intertwin'd
With wildest texture, blacken'd o'er with age:
Round them their mantle green the ivies bind,
Beneath whose foliage pale,
Fann'd by the unfrequent gale,
We shield us from the tyrant's mid-day rage.

When EVENING's dusky car,
Crown'd with her dewy star,
Steals o'er the fading sky in shadowy flight,
On leaves of aspen trees
We tremble to the breeze,
Veil'd from the grosser ken of mortal sight.
Or haply, at the visionary hour,
Along our wild sequester'd walk,
We listen to th' enamour'd rustic's talk,
Heave with the heavings of the maiden's breast,
Where young-eyed loves have built their turtle nest;
Or guide, of soul-subduing power,
Th' electric flash, that from the melting eye
Darts the fond question, and the soft reply.—

SONGS OF THE PIXIES.

Digitized by Google

The entrance to the cavern is by a natural arch, about twelve feet wide, and ten high: the passage continues nearly of the same dimensions for about twenty yards, when it suddenly diminishes to nearly six feet wide, and four high, and still decreasing in size extends about fifteen yards further. Here it expands into a spacious chamber, which dividing into two parts, runs off in different directions; but the rock dropping, neither of them can be pursued to any great distance; though tradition asserts, that a dog put into one of them, came out at an aperture in Botter rock, about three miles distant. Various quarries have been opened in this rock, and a kiln erected for the burning of the lime-stone, which is of superior quality, and employs a great number of workmen.

About one mile south-west of Chudleigh lies UGBROOKE, the seat of Lord Clifford, Baron of Chudleigh. This demesne, for internal beauties, is one of the most enchanting spots in Devon, the grounds containing all the variety of objects which constitute beautiful scenery; wood, water, rock, and unevenness of surface. The park abounds with elm, chesnut, oak, and ash, of the most luxuriant growth; and, with the adjacent pleasure grounds and plantations, comprehends a space between seven and eight miles in circumference. The numerous improvements that have been of late years effected in the house and scenery, were planned, and partly executed, by Hugh, fourth Lord Clifford, father of the present noble owner, who, pursuing the same steps, has considerably added to the natural beauties of the situation.

The Mansion is seated on the declivity of an eminence, built in a quadrangular form, with two fronts, and four towers, and is furnished with battlements, and rough-casted. The entrance is through a Hall, plainly stuccoed, measuring thirty feet by twenty-four: this leads to a Dining Parlour, thirty-six feet by twenty-four, stuccoed, painted French grey, and ornamented with several portraits by Sir Peter Lely; and an excellent representation of a Flemish Farm-Yard, by John Sibrects. The Drawing Room, of the same dimensions as the Dining Parlour, is embellished with many valuable pictures. Among them is a Magdalen, and the Adulterous Woman, with a group of Pharisees, by Titian, for

Digitized by Google

which 2000 guineas have been refused; a fine picture of the Tribute Money, by Vandyck; a Magdalen in the sweet and graceful coloring of Guido; Our Saviour blessing the Little Children, by Peter Van Lint; and a Holy Family, by Gentileschi; which Pilkington observes, in his Dictionary of Painters, is justly to be admired, for "its drawing, design, coloring, disposition, and appearance of nature and truth." The State Bed-Room is hung with a bluish-colored silk damask; and the curtains are of the same description: these were exquisitely wrought in needle-work with birds, flowers, and fruit, under the direction of the late Duchess of Norfolk. In a Poem, descriptive of Ugbrooke, the decorations of this celebrated bed are thus elegantly described.

See, on the silken ground, how Flora pours
Her various dyes, an opulence of flowers;
How, blended with the foliage of the rose,
And rich carnation, the streak'd tulip glows.
The downy peach, and curling vine appear,
With all the treasures of the purple year.
Pois'd on her velvet plumes of vivid green,
The paroquet here animates the scene.
With half-expanded wing here sits the dove
In rising attitude; intent above
She turns her eye, where on extended wings
Through fields of air her lively consort springs.
With yellow crests, the cockatoos unfold
Their milky plumage, stain'd with tints of gold.
Here fresh as life, in all their glory drest,
The bold macaws display the scarlet breast;
The painted neck, of variegated hue,
And glossy wings, of bright cerulean blue.

The Chapel and Library form a distinct wing, which communicates with the main building by a large room, thirty-eight feet by seventeen, stuccoed, and a lofty gallery. The Library is a spacious apartment, planned by Adams, painted sea-green, and elegantly finished: it contains an ample and choice collection of ancient and modern books. The Chapel adjoins the Library, and is of an oblong form, with a semi-circular termination at the east end, and a kind of dome over the altar. The altar-piece, and other

Digitized by Google

other paintings which decorate the walls, represent the Transfiguration, Passion, Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection, of Our Saviour.

The approach to the house from the turnpike-road leading to Plymouth, winds through a space of nearly half a mile, and includes a beautiful intermixture of lawn, wood, rock, and water. The south front overlooks an undulating swell of rising ground, backed by some fine groves: from the west front the land gently slopes to the edge of a deep dell, through which a shallow brook, till lately, flowed unnoticed. This stream has been thrown back by a high mound, and being increased by several others, now forms a spacious lake. The superfluous water is conducted over a marble bed to a rocky precipice, from which it rushes in a foaming cataract, and struggling through a craggy channel, which expands by degrees, enters a pleasant vale, and flowing through it in a circuitous course, is lost beneath the skirts of a hanging wood. From the northern bank of the lake, a long and steep ascent extends to a richly wooded and high ridge of land, called Mount Pleasant, on which is an ancient encampment, surrounded with a trench, and overhung with oaks, and other forest trees; its shape is elliptical; and tradition ascribes it to the Danes. The prospect from this eminence is noble and extensive; the local beauties of Ugbrooke combining with the romantic scenery of the surrounding country. The Park contains about 600 head of deer. Many of the oak and other trees are of uncommon magnitude, and shoot their branching arms to a stupendous height and distance.

The noble family of the Cliffords derive their pedigree from Richard the Second, Duke of Normandy, 1026. His grandson Richard, who was the son of Ponce, came to England with the Conqueror; and had issue, Walter, who married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Ralph de Cundy, of Clifford Castle in Herefordshire, and took the name of De Clifford. Robert de Clifford, fifth in descent from Walter, was created a Peer of England by Henry the Third. The title was inherited by the elder branch of this Nobleman's descendants, till, in default of male issue, it continued for some time in a state of abeyance, among several co-

Digitized by Google

heiresses. One of these co-heiresses married Edward Southwell, Esq. of King's Weston, in Gloucestershire; and her son, the late Lord de Clifford, obtained the title by a grant from his present Majesty in the year 1777. Roger, the fifth Lord de Clifford, had several sons, the third of whom was Sir Lewis de Clifford, Knight of the Garter; and from him the Cliffords of Chudleigh descend in a male line. Thomas Clifford, Esq. the great grandson of Sir Lewis, settled at Borscombe, in Wiltshire: from him descended William Henry Anthony, who married Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Peter Courtenay, Knight. The issue of this marriage was Thomas Clifford, LL. D. upon whom Sir Peter, his grandfather, settled Ugbrooke, which his descendants have from that time made their family seat. Thomas Clifford, a celebrated statesman, who represented Totnes in Parliament, was knighted by Charles the Second, and went Ambassador to Denmark and Sweden: on his return, he was made Lord High Treasurer, and created a Peer, by the style and title of Lord Clifford, Baron of Chudleigh. From him the present Lord Clifford is a lineal descendant.

LINDRIDGE, a subordinate manor to Bishop's-Teignton, was, previous to the year 1640, possessed by the *Martyns*, from whom it descended to the *Lears*, Baronets, whose heiress, Lady Tipping, married Thomas Comyns, Esq. This gentleman sold it under an Act of Parliament to Dr. Finney, from whom it passed by purchase to John Baring, Esq. and afterwards to John Line, Esq. whose widow conveyed it in marriage to the Rev. John Templar, its present proprietor. The ancient manor-house was a very large pile of building, said to have occupied an acre of ground; but the central part only remains. This, however, forms a noble mansion, having two fronts, and the rooms within it being large and commodious. One apartment, that was fitted up as a Ball-room in the year 1673, is still preserved in its original state, though the splendor of its decorations are faded by the lapse of time. The pannels are of burnished gold, the gilding alone of which cost the sum of 500l. The rooms contain some valuable paintings by Vandervelde, Vanbloom, and other old masters. The grounds are picturesque,

Digitized by Google

picturesque, and finely wooded. The oak, the beech, the elm, the chesnut, the plane, and the walnut, all flourish with uncommon vigor: some of them, for the beauty of their growth, are unrivalled in Devon.

KING'S-TEIGNTON is a small village, nearly opposite Newton Abbots, on the north side of the river Teign. The inhabitants were formerly afflicted with agues, occasioned by the pernicious miasma of the marshes in the vicinity; but most of these having been drained, the disease has nearly disappeared. On a tomb in the church is the underwritten very singular epitaph; in which the apostrophe to Death is far better adapted for inscribing on the cenotaph of a heathen temple, than on the monument of a Christian minister.

RICHARDUS ADLAM, hujus Ecclesiæ
Vicarius, obiit Feb. 10th, 1670.
APOSTROPHE AD MORTEM:

Dam'd tyrant! can't prophaner blood suffice?
Must priests that offer be the sacrifice?
Go tell the genii that in Hades lye,
Thy triumphs o'er this *sacred Calvary;*
Till some just Nemesis avenge our cause,
And force this *kill-priest* to revere good laws!

BISHOP'S-TEIGNTON, at the time of the Norman Survey, was partly held by the Crown, and partly by the Bishops of Exeter, one of whom had a palace here; but the present possessor of the manor is the Rev. Mr. Comyns, of Wood. The church is an ancient structure, having a tower at the east end; both of which are in a very decayed condition. Over the west entrance is a semi-circular arch, ornamented with a zigzag moulding, and other characteristics of the Saxon style of architecture. This parish has been remarked as singular from the many roads which intersect it, and which, on a moderate computation, extend between forty and fifty miles; though the breadth of the parish is not more than three miles and a half; nor its length above four and a quarter.

TEIGNMOUTH,

Digitized by Google

TEIGNMOUTH,

As its name implies, is situated at the mouth of the river Teign, on a very gentle declivity, and is sheltered on the east and north-east by a chain of hills, near the foot of which it stands. This town is divided into two parts, by a small rivulet; that on the west side being called *West Teignmouth;* and that on the east side, *East Teignmouth.* "The former is a manor of itself, and belongs to Lord Clifford; who, by his deputy, holds a court-baron, or court-leet, in the town, or borough, once every year; at which court a Jury is regularly nominated, two Constables deputed and sworn, and a Port-reve chosen, who is invested with considerable authority. In this court, which has been held here time immemorial, anciently all *petit* causes relative to the inhabitants were tried, and the culprits amerced according to the pleasure of the lord; and, in order to defray the expences of keeping court, the lord has a right to demand annually from the tenants in fee, the sum of 15l. 4s. 7½d. which is collected by the Port-reve. East Teignmouth contains the manor of East Teignmouth, or Teignmouth-Courtenay, which belongs to Lord Courtenay. The Dean and Chapter of Exeter have also a manor in East Teignmouth, to whom the great tythes, and the tythes of fish, belong, and who are the lords paramount; Lord Courtenay being the *puisne* lord. The greatest part of the town is freehold, and contains in both parishes 404 houses; 316 of which are in the parish of West Teignmouth, and the remainder in the parish of East Teignmouth. The number of inhabitants in both parishes is about 1850."*

Teignmouth is a place of remote antiquity, and is recorded to have been burnt in the tenth century by the Danes, who having landed here, and defeated the King's Lieutenant, ravaged the country to a considerable extent. It was also nearly consumed in the reign of Queen Anne, when the French landed, and set fire to it; and one of the new streets erected with the money procured by brief for the relief of the distressed inhabitants, was named French Street,

* Polwhele's Devon, Vol. II. page 146.

Digitized by Google

Street, as a memorial of the calamity. Since that period, however, the town has become of much more consequence, and is now one of the most fashionable watering-places on the western coast. The principal resort of company is East Teignmouth, where the Public Rooms and Theatre are situated: the former is a neat building, containing Tea, Coffee, Assembly, and Billiard Rooms. The Theatre has been newly built, on a spot of ground given by Lord Courtenay, and was first opened in the summer of 1802. The walk, or promenade, leads from the Public Rooms towards the south, over an extensive flat, called the *Dan*, on which is a small fort erected for the defence of the town. The view from hence, up the river, is extremely beautiful; the ground gradually rising on each side into verdant hills, ornamented with wood, and cheerful with cultivation. The cliffs overhanging the sea have a singular appearance, being, with the exception of a few broad patches of verdure, of a deep red color, and mount, in rude irregular shapes, to the height of seventy or eighty feet.

Near the centre of West Teignmouth is the church, a very ancient stone fabric, built in the form of a cross: the roof is supported in a singular manner by the ramifications of a wooden pillar, that rises from the middle, and was formed from the trunk of a single tree. Over the chancel-door is a tablet in memory of Lucy, fifth daughter of the late Edward Townshend, Dean of Norwich, with the following inscription:

If in the tomb deserv'd regrets pursue,
And some true tests to merit still are due;
If pleasing manners, if a guileless mind,
Goodness of heart, to beauteous features join'd;
If purest friendship's undiminish'd fire
The fond affection kindred ties inspire;
If all the social virtues that endear,
Claim from surviving friends the flowing tear;
Or e'en from thee, oh, stranger, who art nigh,
The humble tribute of a passing sigh;
Let not so just a debt be here denied:—
How transient worth! was prov'd when Lucy died.

East

Digitized by Google

East Teignmouth Church is a venerable pile near the beach, and, from the appearance of its architecture, was probably one of the earliest structures erected after the coming of the Normans.

"The trade of Teignmouth consists of some commercial intercourse with Newfoundland; the exportation of clay, and importation of coal; and is carried on chiefly in craft built at the place, where are conveniencies for launching vessels of 100 tons. The clay exported is brought from Bovey, for the most part by a canal; and dug on the estate of James Templar, Esq. who, with the only true patriotism, is indefatigably employed in promoting the solid interests of his country, by improving agriculture, and encouraging manufactures."* West Teignmouth had formerly a chartered market, held on a Sunday; but this was discontinued by order of the Sheriff in the reign of Henry the Third. The market is now held on Saturdays. Salmon, salmon-peal, sea-trout, whiting, mackarel, and various other kinds of fish, are taken here; and by some excellent local regulations, the inhabitants have the privilege of supplying themselves before any can be sold to the dealers.

Nearly opposite Teignmouth, and almost under the promontory called the *Ness*, is the pleasant hamlet of SHALDON, the property of Lord Clifford, which, of late years, has become a favorite summer-residence for many families, who visit the watering-places on this coast. The Chapel was erected about 130 years ago, by the *Carews*, of Haccombe: it stands in a beautiful situation a little above the Teign, about three quarters of a mile from the hamlet, and is reached by a level walk shaded with luxuriant trees.

HACCOMBE, a demesne long inherited by the *Carew* family, to whom it descended from its ancient Lords *de Haccombe*, "enjoys some very extraordinary privileges. It is not included in any hundred: no officer, either civil or military, hath a right to take cognizance of any proceeding in this parish; and, by a royal grant from the Crown, it was exempted from all duties and taxes, in consequence of some noble services done by an ancestor of the Carews."

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties, 1800.

Digitized by Google

Carews."* Prince observes, that it is the smallest parish in England, as to the number of dwellings, which are two only; the Mansion-House, and the Parsonage. Since the time of this writer, the ancient manor-house has been taken down, and a new one lately erected, by Sir Thomas Carew, Bart. This is a large plain building, standing at the bottom of a gradual ascent, close to the Church; against the door of which are fastened two horse-shoes, "in memory of one of the Carews, who won a wager of a manor of land, in consequence of his swimming his horse a vast way into the sea, and back again."† Various ancient monuments of the Haccombe and Carew families are contained in this structure; and on a monumental brass in the chancel, is the following inscription to Thomas Carew, Esq. and Anne, his wife; who died within two days of each other, in December, 1656.

Two bodies lie beneath this stone,
Whom love and marriage long made one:
One soul conjoin'd them by a force
Above the pow'r of Death's divorce:
One flame of love their lives did burn
Even to ashes, in their urn.
They die, but not depart, who meet
In wedding and in winding sheet:
Whom God hath knit so firm in one,
Admit no separation.
Therefore unto one marble trust
We leave their now united dust;
As root, in Earth's embrace, to rise
Most lovely flowers in Paradise.

TORQUAY is an extremely pleasant village, and watering-place, situated on a cove, about two miles from the extreme point of the promontory, called *Hope's Nose*, which forms the northern boundary of Torbay. The buildings are, in general, good; and the accommodations for visitors, convenient. The surrounding scenery furnishes a variety of romantic and picturesque views; and, in this respect, a more agreeable place of residence can scarcely be found

* Polwhele's Devon Vol. II. p. 234. † Prince's Worthies.

Digitized by Google

found on the coast. The rocks from hence to Teignmouth are chiefly of lime-stone; and from the intervening quarries, most of the lime-kilns in the neighbourhood of Exeter are supplied. Various fissures and small openings appear in different parts of the cliffs; but most of them are of inconsiderable extent. That of the greatest magnitude is between one and two miles from Torquay; it bears the name of *Kent's Hole;* and has been described by Mr. Polwhele, whose account we shall insert, with some verbal alterations.

"Kent's Hole hath two openings about half-way up a steep cliff. The opening to the left is an arch about two feet high, which leads immediately into the great cavern; but the more accessible entrance is by a cleft in the rock, to the right hand, which is nearly five feet high, three feet wide, and forty-three in length. This leads also into the great cave, which is about ninety-three feet in depth, and one hundred in length. The extreme height may be about thirty feet; but the height is very unequal, as the floor rises in the middle to within a few feet of the roof. Two more openings front us here; that on the left conducts on a level into a cave, fifty-two feet long, and twenty-two broad; and then into a second, fifty-four feet long, and about fifteen wide: here a pool of water closes the cave, and the arch bends over it. These caves are also thirty feet high; but the general height of those hereafter mentioned, is only from fifteen to twenty feet; and the extreme breadth about fifteen. The opening on the right of the great cave, leads by a very rocky, slippery descent, into a passage, 136 feet long, and from six to twelve feet high. Hence the way proceeds over several steps of rock, covered with incrustations, and through different passages, into three caves; of the respective lengths of thirty-one, twenty-five, and twenty-two feet. From the second, another passage leads to a ledge of rocks, and over that, by a low vault, only to be passed in a creeping posture, to a cavern, fifty feet long, with another branching from it on the right hand, of the length of about thirty feet. At the end of the largest of these caverns is a pool of water, apparently extending about thirty feet; and here the cave finally closes. Some very

Digitized by Google

fine stalactites hang from different parts of the roof. The whole depth of the cavern is about 682 feet: several pools of pellucid water are met with in the various openings."*

TOR ABBEY, the seat of George Cary, Esq. is finely seated amidst some ancient and noble trees, and commands an interesting prospect of the Tor-bay, and the rocky tors in the vicinity. The House is mostly modern; though some parts of the old Abbey are still preserved. It consists of a centre and two wings; one of which is connected with a castellated gate-way, having octagonal towers and battlements. Beyond this gate-way is a large barn, which formerly belonged to the Abbey. It is "overspread with a venerable mantle of ivy, and decorated with loop-holes, and numerous buttresses. The Roman Catholic Chapel attached to the house is ornamented with a superb altar and paraphernalia, on each side of which are paintings: one represents the crucified Saviour; the other, the blessed Virgin. The end of this Chapel, projecting into the garden, is completely vested with ivy. There are also several ruins clad in the same elegant drapery, among which we discover a large Norman arch, with a small one on either side, richly adorned with sculpture."

The ancient religious house of this place was erected by William, Lord Briwire, or Bruer, in the time of King John, and endowed by him with considerable revenues, which were afterwards much augmented by his son. It was appropriated for Canons of the Premonstratensian order.† After the Bruers, Tor Abbey came into the Mohun family, who were succeeded by the *Ridgeways*, and these by the *Carys*, who now enjoy it. At the Dissolution, the revenues amounted to 396l. 11s.

At

* History of Devon, Vol. I. p 50.

† "The order of *Premonstré*, of which few establishments existed in this kingdom, was founded by St. Norbert. The appellation originated from Bartholomew, Bishop of Laudun, having chosen a place called Premonstré for a monastery of these canons. A curious story is told by the monkish writers respecting the derivation of the name of *Premonstré*. Inglebrand the Great, (say they,) who was noted for his heroic achievements, one day set out to kill a lion, that had long been the terror of the neighbouring country. It happened, that he saw the beast much sooner then he expected, whereupon he cried out, *Saint Jean, tu me l'as de pres Premonstré.* St. John, thou hast almost foreshown him to me." MATON.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

At a small distance to the south-east is a sort of "rocky island, approachable at low water, separated from a projecting cliff by the sea, corroded by the saline spray in the upper parts, and undermined and excavated by the surge below. The loose sandy stratum has formed itself into rude natural arches, from which are seen several charming views. As the rocky pillars divide the landscape, Tor Abbey, and its wooded vale, appear to much advantage; but the opening towards Torquay is, perhaps, more beautiful still. A few yards further on is another curiosity, of somewhat the same nature. Here to an immense *cavern* there are three entrances; two lateral, and another in front: the roof may be nearly 30 feet high, and the length 130 feet."*

Torbay is, in "its general form, semi-lunar, inclosing a circumference of about twelve miles. Its winding shores on both sides are screened with grand ramparts of rock; between which, in the central part, the ground from the country, forming a gentle vale, falls easily to the water's edge. Wood grows all round the bay, even on its *rocky sides*, where it can get footing, and shelter; but in the *central part* with great luxuriance. This noble bay has afforded its protection many a time to the fleets of England, which, in their full array, ride safely within its ample bosom."† Here the Prince of Orange, afterwards William the Third, landed on the fifth of November, 1688, to effect the ever memorable Revolution.

The ruins of COMPTON CASTLE are situated at the higher extremity of the village of Compton, which anciently belonged to the Lady Alice de Pola, who bestowed it on Peter de Compton, in whose family it continued for several descents, but afterwards became the property of the *Gilberts*; and is now in the possession of James Templar, Esq. Part of the north front, with its tower, machiolated gate-way, and some portion of the Chapel, still remains; but its picturesque effect has been destroyed by modern alterations, the ruins being partially fitted up as the out-buildings of a farm.

* Hyett's Description of the Watering Places in Devon, &c.
† Gilpin's Observations, &c. p. 263.

Digitized by Google

NEWTON BUSHEL, AND NEWTON ABBOT,

ARE the names of two parishes which are now united, and constitute one town. The houses are very indifferently built, and the streets badly paved. The principal one is much obstructed by an old market-house and shambles, said to have been erected by Waller, after the Civil Wars, as a kind of indemnity for his having attempted to deprive the inhabitants of their established market. The Church is about one mile west of the town; but two chapels of ease are situated within it. About one mile south of Newton Abbot is

FORD, "a neat and fair house," belonging to the Courtenay family, at the foot of Milber Down, built in the reign of James the First, by Sir Richard Reynell, an eminent lawyer. Here, in the year 1625, "Charles the First took up his abode with his suite; and one day after dinner, in the dining-room, conferred the honor of knighthood on Richard Reynell, of West Ogwell, and Thomas Reynell, his brother, who at that time was Sewer to his Majesty's person, in presence of their wives, and divers lords and ladies, saying unto them, "God give you joy."*

The daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Reynell, married Waller, the Parliamentary General; and his daughter and heiress, Sir William Courtenay. The house stands in a lawn, retired from the road, and opposite it is a small deer-park. Near Ford is a charitable institution, called the *Widowe's House*, bearing this inscription on its front:

> Ist strange a Prophet's Widowe poore shoulde be?
> If strange, then is the Scripture strange to thee!

This was founded by Lady Lucy, wife of Sir Richard Reynell, for the reception of four clergymen's widows; each of whom was to receive an annuity of five pounds yearly; yet the Feoffees have altered the original institution, and only two widows are now admitted, with a salary of 10l. each, annually. Over the pew allotted

* Hyett's Description of the Watering Places, &c.

Digitized by Google

lotted to these matrons in the church of Wilborough, is a curious account of the necessary qualifications they are to possess, and the rules they are to observe, to entitle them to the residence and annuity. "They shall be noe gadders, gossuppers, tatlers, talebearers, nor given to reproachful words, nor abusers of anye. And noe man may be lodged in anye of ye said houses; nor anye beare, ale, or wyne, be found in anye of ye said houses, &c."*

ASHBURTON

Is described, in the Domesday Book, as belonging to the King; but it appears to have been afterwards in possession of the Bishops of Exeter, one of whom, Bishop Stapledon, procured the grant of a weekly market, and an annual fair, in the third year of Edward the Second. In the reign of James the First, the manor belonged to the Crown; but has since passed through the hands of various private persons.

This town is situated about half a mile from the river Dart, and consists principally of one long street; through which passes the high road from London to Plymouth. The houses are neat, and are mostly covered with slate, which abounds in the neighbourhood. A considerable manufactory of serge is carried on here; and once a week a market is holden solely for wool and yarn. The value of the serge manufactured is computed at upwards of 100,000l. annually. The Church is a respectable structure, built in the form of a cross, and having a handsome tower, ninety feet high, terminated by a small spire. In the chancel are several stalls, as in collegiate churches; and in one part is a memorial, stating, that in the year 1754, the representatives of the borough "chose to express their thanks to their constituents, by purchasing an estate for educating the boys of the borough." Adjoining the church is an ancient Chapel, or chantry, which, since the Reformation, has been used as a grammar-school, and also as the place of election for the Members of Parliament, and other public business.

* Hyett's Description of the Watering Places, &c.

Digitized by Google

Ashburton is an ancient borough by prescription, and was constituted a stannary town by charter of Edward the First, in the twenty-sixth of whose reign it first returned representatives to Parliament. The second return was made in the eighth of Henry the Fourth; after which it intermitted sending till the year 1640, when its former privilege was restored. The number of voters are about 200; but as the freeholds which give the right of election are in private hands, this number is merely nominal. The town is governed by a Port-reve, who is chosen annually at the court-leet and baron of the lords of the manor.

BUCKFASTLEIGH is a considerable village, which has arisen round an abbey that was formerly established in this parish. Leland says it was founded by Ethelwardus, son of William Pomerai, during the reign of Henry the First, and was endowed with some revenues by Richard Banzan. These were rated at the Dissolution at 466l. 11s. 2d. Many of the houses in the village, with a large manufactory, were built with materials from the ruins of the abbey, a few fragments of which are still remaining, clad with ivy. The old parish Church is situated on a high hill, north of the village. It consists of a nave, chancel, transepts, tower, and two small chapels on the north and south sides.

DARTINGTON, the interesting seat of Arthur Champernoune, Esq. is recorded, by Mr. Buck, to have been inhabited by a community of Knights Templars; but for this there appears no other authority than tradition; neither Camden nor Tanner making any allusion to such a circumstance. This estate was granted by the Conqueror to William de Falaise: afterwards it became the property of the *Martins*, Lords Keimes, from whom, in the reign of Edward the Second, it passed in marriage to William Lord Audelegh. On the extinction of this family, in the reign of Richard the Second, the manor escheated to the Crown, and was given by that Monarch to his half-brother, John, Lord Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, and Duke of Exeter, who, says Prince, "for the most part made it his principal residence." On the death of Anne, wife to the last Duke of Exeter, it again reverted to the Crown; and was next purchased by —— Ailworth, of London, who, according

Digitized by Google

cording to Sir William Pole, exchanged it for some lands near Exeter, with Sir Arthur Champernoune, second son of Sir Philip Champernoune, of Modbury, from whom the present possessor inherits it in right of his mother, who married the Rev. Richard Harrington, brother to Sir James Harrington, of Merton, in Oxfordshire. Rawlin Champernoune, the last of the male line of this family, died in the year 1774.

The manor-house is a building, or rather mass of buildings, of considerable antiquity, dating back probably to the beginning of the fifteenth century. It stands on an elevated spot; and some of the windows commands a fine view of the beautiful Vale of Totness, and other places. The walls are of black marble, and exceedingly firm, and well built; but it is probable that the dwelling house, and other apartments now used, were originally nothing more than offices to the more superb structure inhabited by the Duke of Exeter's family, and of which the Great Hall is the only part of consequence now perfect. From the remains of walls, and other circumstances, it seems evident that the original buildings composed a double quadrangle, the two courts being connected by the Hall, Kitchen, Buttery, &c. Behind these, to the left, is a large area, surrounded by very thick walls; and on one side, that directly opposite to the Hall, are the remains of a long range of building, supported by an arched front, the arches of which are walled up to the height of two feet. The foundations of various walls were also discovered some years ago, in digging up the area.

Of the outer quadrangle, or that supposed to have been formerly the offices, three sides are nearly perfect; the buildings on the fourth side have been mostly destroyed. The central part is now the dwelling house; the range to the right is occupied as a barn, stable, &c. on the left is the Hall and Great Kitchen; the latter is thirty-five feet square, having walls of immense thickness: the roof is destroyed. The dwelling house is 250 feet in length; and was formerly divided into various distinct tenements, each room having only one door, and that opening immediately to the air; but scarcely any part of the original building remains unaltered. The apartments in the ancient state of the mansion, were entered by

Digitized by Google

five door-ways, projecting from the front, and having steps extending from each, and leading to the rooms over the ground-floor. In that part inhabited by Mr. Champernoune are a few very beautiful paintings, and also a good collection of drawings, chiefly by the old masters. Among the former is a most exquisite Venus, by Annibal Carracci; a Holy Family, by Ludovico Carracci; a Bacchus, by Rubens; a small Landscape, by Poussin; the Four Seasons, in as many large pictures, by Artois, and Teniers; and three very fine Landscapes, by Wilson. The principal of these were brought by Mr. Champernoune from Italy; and form but a very small part of a noble collection which he made in that country.

The Great Hall is a very fine apartment, seventy feet in length, by forty wide: the roof is of oak, curiously framed: the chimney-piece is fourteen feet high. The windows are large, and pointed. The outside is embattled, and strengthened by buttresses. The entrance porch and tower, also embattled, is forty-four feet high: the porch is vaulted; and in the centre of the cross of the arch is an ornamental rose, with a recumbent stag in the middle.

Immediately behind the dwelling-house is Dartington Church, a building of some antiquity, with large pointed windows, battlements, and a tower. The windows were formerly decorated with a considerable quantity of painted glass; but this was taken down about thirty years ago, and only a small portion replaced, and that without any care as to its proper order. Among it are various coats of arms; and the figure of a Duchess of Exeter, praying for "the soul of Thomas her son." Before her are the arms of England, borne also by Holland, quartered with Mortimer. This Duchess was probably Anne, widow of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March; and afterwards, as appears from Dugdale, married to John, Duke of Exeter. Near the altar is an alabaster monument to the memory of Sir Arthur Champernoune, the first of this family that possessed Dartington. On it, besides his own figure, are those of his wife, and seven children, with the arms of the families with whom they intermarried. The date is 1578.

The scenery near the Dart, which winds round great part of this estate, is remarkably beautiful and romantic. In a large field,

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

dignified with the name of Park, is a small circular entrenchment, surrounding about half an acre of land. Dartington parish includes about 3000 acres; of these nearly two thirds are the property of Mr. Champernoune, whose tenants have their farms, on an average, at about one guinea per acre. Some excellent pasture land on this estate, in the vicinity of Totness, is, however, rented at as high as from 4l. to 7l. per acre.

The magnificent ruins of BERRY-POMEROY CASTLE are situated on a rocky eminence, rising above a pellucid brook, which

"——rushing o'er its pebbly bed,
Imposes silence with a stilly sound;—"

and, in combination with the other features of the scenery, forms one of the most delightful views that the country exhibits. The Castle was erected by, and obtained its name from, the *Pomeroys*, whose ancestor, Ralph de la Pomeroy, came to England with the Conqueror, and for his services was rewarded with fifty-eight lordships in this county. His progeny resided here till the reign of Edward the Sixth, when Sir Thomas Pomeroy sold the manor to Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, from whom it has descended to the present Duke of Somerset.

The approach to the castle is "through a thick wood, extending along the slope of a range of hills that entirely intercept any prospect to the south; on the opposite side is a steep rocky ridge, covered with oak, so that the ruins are shut into a beautiful valley. The great gate, with the walls of the south front, the north wing of the court, or quadrangle, some apartments on the west side, and a turret, or two, are the principal remains of the building; and these are so finely overhung with the branches of trees and shrubs, which grow close to the walls, so beautifully mantled with ivy, and so richly incrusted with moss, that they constitute the most picturesque objects that can be imagined: and when the surrounding scenery is taken into the account, the noble mass of wood fronting the gate, the bold ridges rising in the horizon, and the fertile valley opening to the east, the ruins of Berry-Pomery Castle must be considered as almost unparalleled in their effect.* This

* Maton's Observations on the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

This fortress appears from the ruins to have been originally quadrangular, having only one entrance, which was on the south, between two hexagon towers, through a double gateway. The first machiolated, and further strengthened by angular bastions: over it the arms of the Pomeroys are yet to be seen. The eastern tower commands a fine prospect of the adjacent country. The small room over the gateway was probably the chapel; and is divided by a wall, supported by three pillars, and circular arches. The ruins in the interior part, or quadrangle, are considerably more modern than the rest of the building. These appear to have belonged to a "magnificent structure," commenced, says Prince,* by the *Seymours*, at an expence of 20,000l. but "never brought to perfection; for the west side of the mansion was never begun: what was finished may be thus described. Before the door of the Great Hall was a noble walk, whose length was the breadth of the court, arched over with curiously carved free-stone, supported in the fore part by several stately pillars of the same stone, of great dimensions, after the Corinthian order, standing on pedestals, having cornices and friezes finely wrought. The apartments within were very splendid, especially the dining-room; and many other of the rooms were well adorned with mouldings and fret-work; some of whose marble clavils were so delicately fine, that they would reflect an object true and lively from a great distance. Notwithstanding which, it is now demolished, and all this glory lyeth in the dust, buried in its own ruins; there being nothing standing but a few broken walls,† which seem to mourn their own approaching funerals." These walls are composed of slate, and are going rapidly to decay.

The grounds surrounding the castle, consist of very steep eminences; and are almost entirely covered with fine oaks, and other timber. Even in the court, and on the ruins of the fortress itself, trees, apparently of forty or fifty years growth, are flourishing in much

* Worthies of Devon.

† The annexed Print represents some of the mutilated walls of the domestic apartments on the east and north sides of the Castle; and also shows its elevated situation, and the embowering wood, which envelopes the "ivy-clad ruins."

Digitized by Google

much luxuriance; and with the various shrubs which Nature has profusely scattered over the interior area, and around the entrance, compose a scene highly beautiful and interesting. The Castle was dismantled during the Civil Wars in the time of Charles the First.

In the Church at Berry Pomeroy, which was built by one of the Pomeroy family, is an elaborate alabaster monument, to the memory of LORD EDWARD SEYMOUR, Knt. son to the Duke of Somerset; EDWARD SEYMOUR, Bart. his son; and the LADY ELIZABETH, wife to the latter, and daughter of Sir Arthur Champernoune. Their effigies are represented lying on three steps, in very constrained positions. The Knight and his son are in armour; the former has a truncheon in his left-hand, and lies cross-legged, like the Knights Templars. The Lady is in a black dress: near her head is the figure of a child in a cradle; and at her feet, another in a grotesque chair, with a fine cap on: below are nine figures (five male, and four female) kneeling, with books open before them. This monument was repaired in the year 1771, by order of the late Duke of Somerset, who was the eighth in lineal descent from the Protector, Somerset.

TOTNESS

Is one of the most ancient towns in the kingdom; and, if any credit could be given to the tales of Geoffrey of Monmouth, would assume an origin prior to most of them; for here, according to this author, Brute, or Brutus, the fabulous colonizer of Britain, first landed; and the inhabitants, to corroborate the tale, still point out a stone near the spot where the East Gate stood, as the very one on which he set his foot when he came ashore. Its antiquity is, however, considerable; for Leland mentions that the Roman foss-way, extending from north to south through Devonshire and Somersetshire, begun here: and Risdon quotes a passage from Bede, which notices the arrival of Ambrosius, and Uter-Pendragon, at Totness, when they returned from Bretagne to oppose the tyranny of Vortigern.

The situation of this town is extremely fine. "From the margin of the river Dart it climbs the steep acclivity of a hill, and

Digitized by Google

stretches itself along its brow; commanding a view of the winding stream, and the country in its vicinity; but sheltered, at the same time, by higher grounds on every side. The piazzas in front of the houses in some parts of the Upper Town, and the higher stories projecting over the lower ones, are manifest proofs of its antiquity; a claim which is strengthened by the keep of its castle, a very large circular building, turreted, rising from an immense artificial mound."*

This Castle, as appears from Browne Willis,† was erected by *Judhael de Totnais*, (to whom the manor was given by the Conqueror,) and made the head of his Barony. During his residence here, he founded a priory for Benedictines, which continued till the Dissolution, when its revenues were estimated, according to Speed, at 124l. 10s. 2d. yearly. In the reign of William Rufus, Judhael was deprived of his inheritance, and banished; and his estates were given by the King to Roger Novant; yet, notwithstanding this grant, William de Braose, great-grandson to Jud de Totnais, held a moiety of the Honor in the reign of King John. His possessions were, however, seized by the King, who soon afterwards assigned the castle and town of Totness to Henry, natural son to Reginald, Earl of Cornwall. On the accession of Henry the Third, Reginald de Braose, third son of William, had restitution of his estates, which passed in marriage with his sister, to William de Cantilupe, whose daughter married into the *De la Zouche* family, who thus became possessed of that portion of the manor belonging to the Braoses; and some time afterwards, (on the failure of the *Vallitorts*, descendants from Roger de Novant,) they acquired the whole of the remaining part. On the attainder of John de la Zouche, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, Totness was granted to Richard Edgecumbe, whose son, or grandson, in the second year of Queen Elizabeth, "conveyed the manor of the borough of Totness to the Corporation, on a reserved rent of 21l. per annum, payable to the owner of the Castle, reserving, with this alienation, the right of a Burgess-ship to his heirs for ever."

Totness

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties, 1800.

† Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II.

Digitized by Google

Totness was incorporated by charter of King John; and has had its privileges confirmed by several succeeding Sovereigns. The Corporation is vested in a Mayor, Recorder, thirteen Burgo-Masters, or Assistants, and twenty Common Councilmen. The borough first sent representatives to Parliament in the twenty-third of Edward the First: the right of election is vested in the Corporation. At the period of the Norman Survey, Totness had immunity from taxation, excepting at the times when Exeter was rated.

The Church is a handsome structure, having a tower at the west end, well proportioned, and adorned with pinnacles. The date of its foundation was unknown till about four years ago, when the south-east pinnacle was struck by lightning in a violent storm, and in its fall, besides other considerable damage, beat in the roof of a small room over the porch. In this room were two chests full of old records and papers, which becoming exposed by this accident, among them was found a grant from Bishop Lacy of forty days indulgence, "to those people who had or might contribute any thing towards the rebuilding of the Church at Totness." This was dated at Chudleigh, where the Bishops of Exeter had a residence, 1432. It may be observed in confirmation, that the arms of Lacy, viz. three shoveller's heads on a shield, can yet be seen on the porch, though nearly obliterated. The Church underwent some repairs about twenty years ago, when the beautiful symmetry of the interior was destroyed by various tasteless alterations in the windows, and other parts of the fabric. The chancel is separated from the body of the Church by an elegant screen of ornamental tracery in stone-work; but the altar-piece, instead of corresponding with the rest of the building, is of Grecian design, having a classical semi-dome, supported by Corinthian pillars. The number of houses in Totness is 294; these are principally disposed in one street, about three quarters of a mile in length, terminated on the east by a bridge over the Dart. The town was formerly surrounded by a wall, and had four gates; the east and north gateways are now standing. The number of inhabitants is 2500: many of the laboring class derive employment from the woollen trade.

Totness

Digitized by Google

Totness is a very improving town, and will, probably, in a few years, be the third of consequence in Devonshire: the woolen trade is rapidly increasing; and some new roads are making in different directions, for which the concurrence of the Legislature has been lately obtained. EDWARD LYE, the learned author of the Anglo-Saxon and Gothic Dictionary, which appeared in two volumes folio, in 1772, with a Grammar of the two languages united, was born in this town, in the year 1704. He died at the age of sixty-five. BENJAMIN KENNICOTT, D. D. and Canon of Christ Church, was likewise a native of Totness. His most celebrated work was a Collection of Hebrew MSS. with a view to a corrected version of the Old Testament. He died in 1783, aged sixty-five.

SHARPHAM, the delightful residence of Edmund Bastard, Esq. Member of Parliament for Dartmouth, is situated on the brow of a thickly wooded declivity, which rises from the margin of the Dart, about two miles below Totness. The scenery it commands is extremely picturesque; and many of the views from the grounds are also eminently beautiful. The mansion is an elegant building of free-stone; and was erected by Captain Pownall, who lost his life at the moment of victory in a naval engagement during the American War. The daughter of this gentleman is married to Mr. Bastard.

LUPTON HOUSE, a seat of Francis Buller, Bart. is a structure of considerable elegance, standing in a fine situation on an ascent: the southern front is particularly handsome. The surrounding eminences are richly clothed with wood, and at their feet are spread out some fertile and well-watered vales.

BRIXHAM *Church-Town*, and BRIXHAM QUAY, have improved very rapidly, but especially the latter, during the late war, through the trade and expenditure occasioned by the fleets' being stationed in Torbay. Near the former village is an ebbing and flowing spring, called *Laywell*, of which the following particular account has been given by a former tourist,* who remarks, that it is the result of his own observations, as he had carefully observed its periods, and the quantity of its ebbing and flowing, for fourteen

* Tour through Great Britain, 4 Vols.

Digitized by Google

fourteen hours together. "The situation of this spring is pretty near the foot of a large ridge of hills; and the quantity of water that flows from it is considerable. It falls into a large bason, where it is very easy to observe (by lying in an inclining plane) the perpendicular height of its ebbing and flowing, as well as the time between high and low water. By a careful observation of a great number of fluxes and refluxes, I find, that when it proceeds regularly, as it sometimes does for eight hours together, it is eleven times in an hour. There happens sometimes an intermission of these ebbings and flowings;" for on the same day that the above remarks were made, the spring had no motion, once, for upwards of an hour; and at another time, for above twenty minutes. "The bason which receives the water, contains, as I guess, about twenty feet in area; and the perpendicular height of the flowing, when I observed it, (10th of July, 1733, in a dry season,) was various; sometimes an inch and three quarters, and at other times not above half an inch; but generally about one inch and one eighth."*

DARTMOUTH

Is a very considerable sea-port town, situated near the confluence of the river Dart with the British Channel. "The bay which the river forms at its mouth, is one of the most beautiful scenes on the coast. Both the entrance of the Dart into it, and its exit to the sea, appear, from many stations, closed up by the folding of the banks; so that the bay has frequently the form of a lake, only furnished with shipping instead of boats. Its banks are its great beauty; they consist of lofty wooded hills, shelving down in all directions."†

The view of Dartmouth from the bay is extremely pleasing: the houses appear situated on the declivity of a craggy hill, and extending, embosomed in trees, almost a mile along the water's edge.

* See Vol. III. p. 455, for an Attempt to account for the Causes of these kind of Springs.

† Gilpin's Observations, 1798.

Digitized by Google

edge. The dock-yards and quay project into the river, and cause an apparent curvature in its course, which has a very beautiful effect; while the uniformity is further broken by the ships of war, and smaller vessels, gliding along its current. The rocks on each side are composed of a glossy, purple-colored slate, and their summits are fringed with various plants and shrubs.

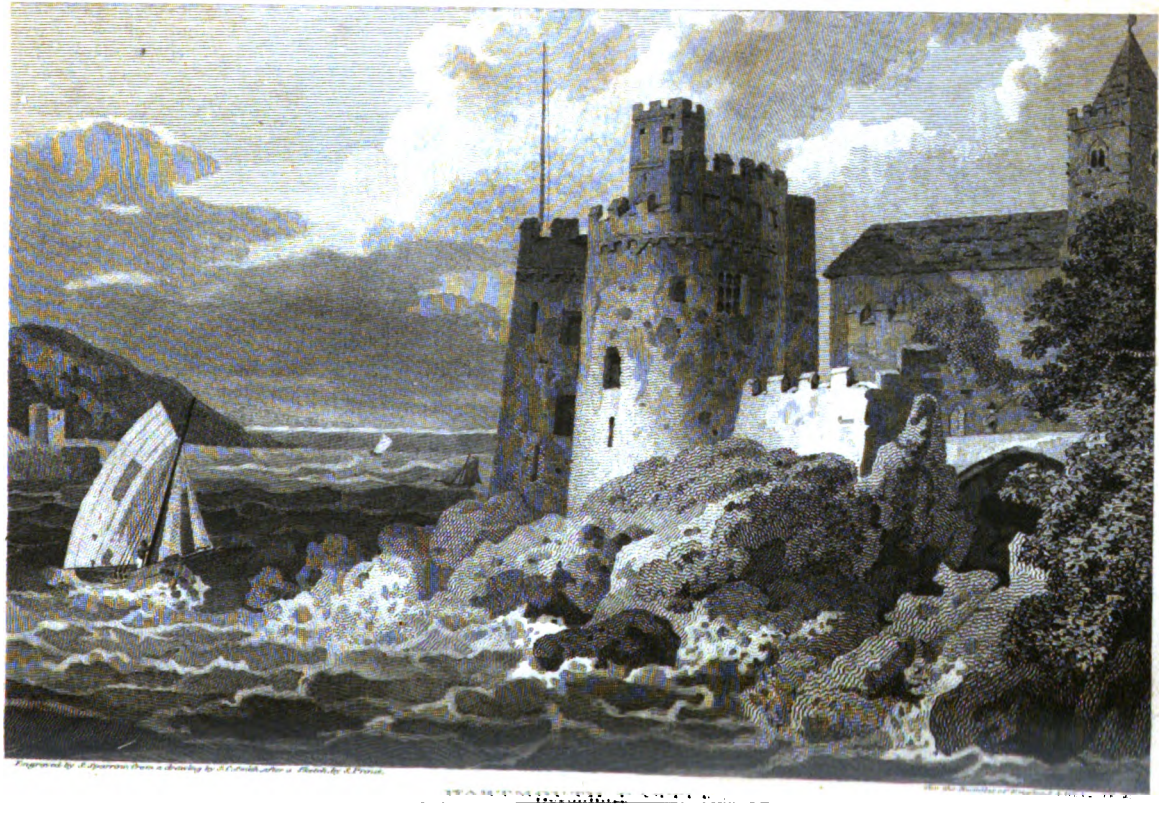
This town originally consisted of three villages, named *Clifton*, *Dartmouth*, and *Hardness;* and though now united by buildings, with respect to local regulations, they are still, in several instances, distinct. From the situation of the ground, some of the streets are so much higher than others, that "it is almost possible to shake hands from without, with a person at the window of an attic story." Most of them are also incommodiously narrow; and the lower tier of houses frequently communicates with those above, by flights of steps.

This manor was granted by the Conqueror to Judhael de Totnais, and passed in the same manner as Totness to the *Zouches*, of whom it was probably purchased by the *Dawneys*, who conveyed it to the *Tewkesburys*, merchants; and these released it, to the use of the town, in the fifteenth of Edward the Third. In the second of Edward the Fourth, Dartmouth, which appears to have escheated to the Crown, was bestowed on Nevill, Lord Falconbridge, and after his decease was given to the Duke of Clarence, brother to the King. Again reverting to the Crown on the death of the Duke, it was given to the *Carews* by Henry the Eighth; and though their title was confirmed by Queen Mary in the year 1557, it once more fell into the power of the Sovereign. Queen Elizabeth, in the twenty-third of her reign, granted it to three persons, named Downing, Asheton, and Robert Peter: from the two latter it came to the Corporation, in which it is still vested.

"King John," says Leland, "gave privilege of Mairalte to Dertmuth." But this is either a mistake, or the manner of exercising the privilege was not sufficiently defined; as the charter granted by Edward the Third, expressly invests the Burgesses with power "to choose a Mayor every year." The Corporation which is formed under this charter, consists of a Mayor, Recorder, two

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

two Bailiffs, and twelve Common-Councilmen, with other inferior officers. Dartmouth was first represented in Parliament in the twenty-sixth of Edward the First; but afterwards intermitted sending till the reign of Edward the Third, since which the members have been regularly returned. The right of election is possessed by the Corporation, who have the power of creating freemen."*

The most important historical occurrences registered in the annals of this town, are its destruction twice by fire, in the reigns of Richard the First, and Henry the Fourth. The French were, in both instances, the invaders; and both times escaped with slight loss; yet, on landing here a third time in the year 1404, they were intercepted by the peasants and *women*, and the whole party either taken or slain, together with their leader, Mons. de Castell. In the time of the Civil Wars, Dartmouth was garrisoned for the King; but in January, 1645, was stormed by the forces commanded by General Fairfax.

The harbour of Dartmouth is very safe, and sufficiently capacious for 500 sail: the entrance is defended by a Castle, and two platforms of cannon. The former was probably erected in the time of Henry the Seventh, who, as appears from Browne Willis, "agreed, for himself and heirs, to pay to the Corporation 40*l.* per annum for their building a strong and mighty tower, and bulwark, with lime and stone, for furnishing the same with guns, artillery, and ordnance, and for finding a chain in length and strength sufficient." This fortress, however, is not spacious; and the cannon mounted upon its walls are but few. Its situation is extremely picturesque; and the rich mass of oaks in its vicinity, with the tower and spire of a small chapel just peeping above the branches, add considerably to the effect of the prospect. Dr. Maton, speaking of the scenery of Dartmouth, observes, that, "the view towards the mouth of the harbour exhibits such a happy assemblage of objects for a picture, that it is, perhaps, scarcely to be exceeded. A rocky knoll projecting from the shore, makes an admirable foreground. One of the side screens is formed by the

* Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II. p. 367.

Digitized by Google

picturesque castle, with the adjoining church, just emerging from a fine wood, which enriches the right-hand side; the other, a high promontory, with a fort at its feet; whilst the main sea appears in front through a narrow opening, and leaves nothing for the imagination to wish for in the composition."

At the south end of the town are the venerable walls of a more ancient castle, rising immediately above the water. This building appears to have been circular, but of no great strength.

Dartmouth contains three churches, and a meeting-house for Dissenters. One of the churches, St. Clement's, is situated on a hill about a quarter of a mile from the town; and having a tower nearly seventy feet high, forms a good sea mark. A considerable portion of the trade of the town arises from the Newfoundland Fishery, which is carried on to a great extent, and furnishes labor for nearly 3000 men. The number of vessels employed in this trade, in catching the fish, and conveying them, when cured, to foreign markets, is about 350. The returns are generally wine, oil, fruit, salt, &c. The chief markets are the different ports in the Mediterranean. The quay is large and convenient; before it is a spacious street, where the principal merchants have their residence: most of the houses are large and convenient. The education of the children of the poorer classes is provided for by the establishment of three charity-schools.

Slapton-Lea is a remarkable lake, nearly two miles and a quarter in length, running parallel with the beach of Start Bay, and not more distant from the sea than a quarter of a mile. This lake is formed by three small streams of fresh water, which have no visible outlet, but are supposed to unite with the sea, by percolating through the sand. It was formerly well stored with pike, pearch, roach, and eels; but most of the fish were destroyed, and great part of the Lea drained, by means of a singular breach made in the sand during a storm, a few years ago. In the winter the lake abounds with wild-ducks, widgeons, teal, coots, and other birds of different species.

KINGSBRIDGE

Digitized by Google

KINGSBRIDGE

Is a small, but pleasant town, situated on a branch of the Salcombe river, and, according to Risdon, deriving its name from the bridge which separates it from Dodbrooke. The manor was formerly the property of the Earls of Devon, and afterwards of the Lords Petres, but is now divided among several families. A Latin free-school was founded here by a Mr. Crispin, of Exeter, and has obtained some degree of reputation. DAVID TOLLEY, or TOLBEY, called, by Leland, *Tavelegus*, was a native of this town. He commenced student at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, about the ninth of Henry the Eighth, and became a considerable proficient in the Latin and Greek languages. The *Progymnasmata Grammaticæ Græcæ* was written by him for the use of Prince Edward: he was also the author of *Themata Homeri*, and some other pieces.

DODBROOKE has been celebrated as the first place where *white ale* was brewed; but, perhaps, more so from the circumstance of tithes being demandable for that liquor: a small sum is now paid annually by each inn-keeper in lieu of the tithe. A market is held here every third Wednesday in the month, and four quarterly markets for the sale of cattle.

MODBURY

Is an ancient market and borough town, though neither incorporated, nor represented in Parliament. History, however, records, that in the thirty-fourth of Edward the First, it sent two members; but, with many other places in this county, was afterwards exempted on petition; the alledged plea being the poverty of the inhabitants, which prevented their *paying* the representatives, as was the custom in that age. The town consists principally of four streets, running in the direction of the cardinal points, and crossing each other at right angles in the market-place. The number of houses is somewhat above 200; that of inhabitants about 1850: many of the latter are employed in the woollen trade, which was formerly carried on to a much greater extent than at

Digitized by Google

present; and here was once a good weekly market for yarn, which has been discontinued many years, scarcely any being now spun in the neighbourhood: to preserve the right, however, the bell still rings for the yarn market at twelve o'clock. A plush and a hat manufactory have also been established in this town; the machines employed in the former are of very ingenious construction.

The Church* is a spacious and handsome building, having a spire, about 134 feet in height: the latter is more modern than the body of the edifice, and seems, from papers preserved in the parish chest, to have been rebuilt soon after the year 1621. Within the church is a neat marble font and pedestal, and three large galleries, erected in 1716. In the south aisle is an alabaster statue in armour, supposed to be the effigy of one of the Champernoune family. In the town are two Dissenting meeting-houses; one for Presbyterians, the other for Anabaptists.

This manor formerly belonged to Sir James Okestone, or Oxton; but afterwards became the property of the *Champernounes*, several of whom were knights, and lived here in great splendor. This family resided at Modbury from the time of Edward the Second, till the end of the seventeenth or beginning of the eighteenth century. The noble mansion in which they resided, called Modbury House, or sometimes Court House, is nearly razed: a part, that seems to have been one of the wings, however, is yet standing, and contains a large arched chamber, said to have been the dining-room: the doorways and chimney-pieces are ornamented with carving; the window frames are of granite, or moor-stone. At a small distance was a large deer park, now converted into a considerable farm, but still retaining the name of Modbury Park.

Tradition speaks very highly of the grandeur of this seat, and of the magnificent manner in which the Champernounes lived; and particularly of their keeping a very fine band of singers and musicians,

* This structure has a considerable deviation from the usual east and west position; and perhaps may in some degree confirm the received opinion, that the founders of churches took that point for the east, where the sun was seen to rise on that saint's day to whom the church was dedicated. The head of Modbury Church is within about three quarters of a point of the north-east.

Digitized by Google

cians, which band, if report may be credited, was the occasion of the family's ruin: " for that Mr. Champernoune taking it on the Thames in the time of Queen Elizabeth, her Majesty was so delighted with the music, that she requested a loan of it for a month; to which Mr. Champernoune, aware of the improbability of its ever returning, would not consent; saying, that he 'hoped her Majesty would allow him to keep his fancy.' The Queen was so highly exasperated at this refusal, that she found some pretence to sue him at law, and ruin him, by obliging him, in the course of the proceedings, to sell no fewer than nineteen manors." This anecdote, at least the circumstance of the sale of the nineteen manors about the above period, is in a great degree confirmed by the title-deeds of some lands in and round Modbury; and from these it likewise appears, that the possessions of the family at the close of the seventeenth century were comparatively inconsiderable; and that soon afterwards nearly all of them were alienated. The Champernounes of Dartington are a younger branch of those seated in this town. The present proprietor of this manor is a daughter of the late Rev. Mr. Trist, of Bowden, in whose family it has been for the last century.

At Modbury a court-leet is held twice every year; and at the Michaelmas court are elected a Port-reve, (usually styled Mayor,) two Constables, and several other officers; to whom the judicial regulations of the town are intrusted. The persons liable to be chosen, are those who have any freehold within the borough, and are denominated Freemen, or Free Burgesses; and by virtue of their offices, are entitled to certain privileges. From the records it appears, that the borough court, within the past century, took cognizance of actions for all debts under forty shillings: and that so lately as the time of Charles the First, the inhabitants possessed the authority of enrolling deeds in the rolls of the borough.

In this town an alien priory of Benedictines existed as early as the reign of Stephen; but on the Dissolution of the alien priories, in the time of Henry the Sixth, it was granted to the College at Eton. Its revenues were estimated at about 70l. per annum. The site of the priory seems to have been at a place called Scotland,

Digitized by Google

adjoining to the western side of the church-yard. Some remains of an ancient building, with large arches, filled up, are still existing there, and till lately were inhabited, but are now converted into a barn. Two large fields, on the opposite side of the road, are still called Prior's Parks, which renders the opinion of the priory standing near this spot more probable.

TRAINE, near Modbury, is an ancient seat of the *Swete* family, which appears to have acquired it by descent from the *Scoos*, who became extinct about the time of Henry the Eighth, or Edward the Sixth. Before that period the *Swetes* resided at Upton, in South-Milton, where they can be traced as far back as the year 1438, on an estate that still belongs to the family. Adrian Swete was Sheriff of Devon in 1724. The present owner of Traine is the Rev. John Swete, of Oxton House.

FLEET HOUSE, about two miles from Modbury, was formerly possessed by the *Heles;* but in the year 1716, on failure of issue in that family, it became the property of James Bulteel, Esq. an able and respectable magistrate, and Member of Parliament for Tavistock: his descendant, James Bulteel, Esq. is the present inheritor. The mansion is finely situated on an eminence on the western side of the river Erme. Part of it is very ancient; but many alterations were made by the last proprietor, who erected an extensive and elegant front toward the north. This commands a delightful prospect over the valley, through which the river winds, with Ermington Church, and in the distance the celebrated hills on the moor, called the East and West Beacons. Another part of the view includes a fine wood, together with the church and western extremity of the town of Modbury.

WIMPSTON, a considerable manor near Modbury, was anciently the seat of the *Fortescues*, several of whom have been deservedly celebrated for their talents, both in the civil and military professions. Of this family was SIR JOHN FORTESCUE, Chief Justice and Chancellor in the reign of Henry the Sixth, who was born here about the year 1381; and was author of *De Laudibus Legum Angliæ*, a work still greatly in repute among legal antiquaries. He died at the age of ninety; and was buried at Eberton, in Gloucestershire,

Digitized by Google

cestershire. Wimpston was lately the property of the *Ourrys*, and now belongs to Paul Treby Treby, Esq. whose surname originally was Ourry. The Fortescue arms still remain on the glass of a window of the manor-house.

SHILSTON, formerly *Shilveston*, is an ancient seat belonging to John Savery, Esq. of Butcombe Court, near Bristol, in whose family it has been ever since the year 1614. It was purchased from the *Hills*, one of whom has a tomb in the village church, neatly inscribed with an acrostic epitaph, the initials of which form the words, "Oliver Hill, of Shilveston," who died on the 26th of December, 1573.

MARIDGE, a handsome seat, about three miles north-east of Modbury, was, in the reign of Queen Anne, the property of Edmund Sture, Esq. who sold it to Mr. Buckley, an attorney, of Totness, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Taylor, also an attorney, of the same place. From him it descended to his son, Charles Taylor, Esq. who was a Counsellor of great ability, Deputy Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and for some time a Member of Parliament. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles, who dying about 1770, without issue, this estate is now the jointure of his widow for her life; the inheritance belonging to the second son, the Rev. George Taylor.

FOWELSCOMBE, an ancient and venerable structure, about four miles from Modbury, was formerly the seat of the *Fowels*, and afterwards of a branch of the *Champernounes*. It has since been in the possession of George Herbert, Esq. and successively of three brothers, Thomas, John, and Richard King, Esqrs. the latter of whom is the present owner, and makes it occasionally his residence.

BUTTERFORD was formerly the seat of the *Prestwoods*, from whom it devolved to the *Strodes* of Newnham, who made it their residence till about fifteen years ago, when the late Richard Strode, Esq. sold it to Thomas Palk, Esq. This gentleman shortly afterwards disposed of it to his brother, Walter Palk, Esq. of Marleigh, now member of Parliament for Ashburton: of him it was lately purchased by Thomas Bowes, Esq. who fitted up and

Digitized by Google

repaired the mansion at a considerable expence; but has lately advertised the estate for sale.

STOWFORD, the seat of Henry Rivers, Esq. is pleasantly situated about half a mile from the picturesque village of Ivy-bridge, near the foot of the hill called the *West-Beacon*. From the summit of this eminence, and also of the adjacent one, named the *East Beacon*, the prospects are very extensive and beautiful. All the southern part of the county appears spread like a map before the eye; and from some points, the whole sea coast, from Portland to Deadman's Point, is visible in clear weather.

MEMBLAND, in Risdon's time, was the property of the *Hillersdons*, and afterwards of the *Champernounes;* since which it belonged to Arthur Stert, Esq. who rebuilt the mansion, with detached wings as it now is. It was next purchased by John Bulteel, Esq. who having succeeded to the Fleet estate on the death of his father in the year 1780, sold Membland to Peter Perring, Esq. then lately returned from the East-Indies. He dying intestate, and without issue, in 1796, it descended to his brother Philip, whose eldest son and successor, John Perring, Esq. Alderman of the city of London, is now proprietor.

MOTHECOMBE is a handsome building, of comparatively modern structure, situated by the village of Mothecombe, near the mouth of the harbour of that name. It was formerly in the family of Pollexfen, and afterwards in that of Calmady, whose female descendants and co-heirs have sold a moiety of the estate to Henry Legassicke, Esq. of a respectable family of that name, which for upwards of a century has been resident in Modbury.

In the year 1798, a singular phenomenon happened at the mouth of Mothecombe Harbour. From the cliff on its western side projects a peninsula of many acres, called *Mothecombe-Back*, consisting of an accumulation of sand and gravel, which has resisted the force of the waters time immemorially, and has a fair annually held on it. This peninsula reaches so nearly across the harbour, that the river Erme is confined by it almost close to the eastern cliff, and there flows into the sea. At the beginning of the above year, in a tempestuous night, the waves formed another back, or peninsula, across the harbour, almost as large, and ap-

Digitized by Google

parently as firm as the ancient one; this seemed joined to the eastern cliff, as firmly as the other to the western cliff, and in consequence, the river, after clearing the old back, was forced to run quite across the harbour by the side of the new obstruction, before its waters could unite with the ocean. This occasioned so great an impediment to the navigation of the river, (which is chiefly by vessels in the coal and culm trade,) that meetings were held to consult on the possibility of regaining the passage, by cutting through the new back. Before, however, a determination was made, and after the formidable barrier had continued undiminished for several months, the sea, in another stormy night, washed the whole away, leaving the harbour in its former state; the ancient peninsula not being in the least affected.

IVY-BRIDGE is a village beautifully situated in a romantic dell, which, from its rattling river, wooded accompaniments, and picturesque scenery, excites the attention and admiration of almost every traveller. The place derives its name from a small bridge of one arch, which is covered with ivy, and stretches across the river Erme. This impetuous mountain torrent, after forming various cascades, and dashing through many rocky* chasms, which is overhung with fine mossy woods, and many straggling trunks and roots, passes on to the English Channel.

YEALMPTON, a village on the banks of the Yealme, and, according to Risdon, "the cheife begotten of that river," was the residence of the Saxon King, Ethelwold; and is, by some historians, recorded as the burial-place of his Lieutenant, Lipsius. In the reign of King John, this manor belonged to Mathew Fitz-Herbert, one of the Barons whose signature appears to Magna Charta. It afterwards became the property of the Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon; but is now possessed by the representatives of the *Pollexfens*. In the church-yard is a stone, apparently monumental, eight feet four inches long, on which the word T OREUS is cut in rude letters. Tradition affirms, that a King of Yealmpton, or a Roman Nobleman, was buried here.

PLYMSTOCK,

* "The granite of Ivy-Bridge is of a dead whitish color, and composed of a very large proportion of fel-spar, (which appears, for the most part, in long narrow crystals,) pellucid quartz, some schoerl, and a few scarcely discernible specks of mica." *Maton.*

Digitized by Google

PLYMSTOCK, says Risdon, "once belonged to the abby of Tavistoke; and to shew you the manner how, let my labour counterpoize your patience. It is left us by tradition, that one Childe, of Plimstoke, a man of faire possessions, having noe issue, ordained, that wherever he should happen to be buried, to that church his lands should belong. It so fortuned, that he riding to hunt in the forrest of Dartmoor, being in pursuite of his game, casually lost his company, and his way; likewise, the season then being so colde, and he so benumbed therewith, that he was enforced to kyll his horse, and imboweled him to creepe into his belly to gett heate, which not being able to preserve him, he was there frozen to death; and so found, was carried by Tavistoke men to be buried in the church of the abby, which was not so secretly don, but the inhabitants of Plimstoke had knowledg thereof, which, to prevent, they resorted to defend the carryage of the corps on the bridge, where they conceived necessity compelled them to passe; but they were deceived by a guile, for Tavistoke men forthwith built a sleight bridge, and passed on at another place without resistance, buried the body, and enjoyed the lands; in memory whereof the bridge beareth the name of Guylbridge to this day."

PLYMPTON, OR PLYMPTON EARLS,

A RESPECTABLE stannary and market-town, situated in a pleasant valley, about a mile south-east of the river Plym, was formerly part of the *Honour* of Plympton, to which no fewer than eighty-nine Knight's-fees were appendant. This Honour was granted by Henry the First to Richard de Rivers, or Redverse, afterwards Earl of Devon, who made it the capital seat of his barony. His residence was the Castle; the ruins of which, with an artificial mount, about seventy feet high, and 200 in circumference, stand on the north side of the town. This fortress included nearly two acres, and was encompassed by a high rampart, and a very deep ditch, which still remain; but the walls of the castle are almost wholly destroyed; some fragments on the top of the mount are of great thickness.

The family of Rivers invested Plympton with considerable privileges. Baldwin de Rivers is said, by Dr. Brady, to have granted its

Digitized by Google

its charter of incorporation, which was afterwards confirmed by Edward the Third, Richard the Second, and the Henries Fifth and Sixth. The Corporation consists of a Mayor, Recorder, and eight Aldermen, or principal Burgesses. The right of election is vested in the Mayor, and free Burgesses: the number of voters is about 100. The first return to Parliament was made as early as the twenty-third of Edward the First.

This town consists principally of two streets, assuming the figure of a Roman T: the number of houses is somewhat more than 200. The Church, or Chapel, is appendant to that at Plympton St. Mary. Near it is a well endowed Free-school, erected about the year 1664, by one of the trustees of Elizeus Hele, Esq. of Fardel, who bequeathed 1500l. per annum to be expended in charitable purposes. The Guild-Hall is an ancient building, supported on stone pillars, and, among other portraits, contains one of Sir Joshua Reynolds, by himself.

Plympton is rendered interesting in the annals of literature, from having been the birth-place of this great and eminent character, whose abilities not only shed a lustre on the place of his nativity, but were the great agents in advancing the arts and artists of England to a rivalship with those of enlightened Greece and Rome. Before the time of Sir Joshua, elegant art was an alien to this country; he naturalized it to the soil, and thus disproved the assertions of Du Bos, Winckelman, and Montesquieu, who had contended, that the climate of England was inimical to the genius of painting.

This illustrious artist was born on the sixteenth of July, 1723. His father was master of the grammar school, and was either a very singular man, or had accidentally obtained that character. Mr. Malone observes, that he fancied "an uncommon Christian name" for his son, might be the means of bettering his fortune, and therefore gave him the scriptural appellation of Joshua.

Young Joshua evinced an early propensity for drawing, and began by copying some sketches made by his elder sisters, and also the prints from Cat's Book of Emblems. When only eight years old, "he read, with great avidity and pleasure, The Jesuits' Perspective," with the rules of which he soon made himself perfectly acquainted,

Digitized by Google

acquainted. Afterwards he obtained Richardson's Treatise on Painting; the perusal of which so delighted and inflamed his young mind, that he thought Raphael the most exalted of mortal men, and resolved to become a painter himself. To gratify his propensity for the fascinating art, his father placed him under *Thomas Hudson*,* the most celebrated portrait painter of that time. But our young artist soon excelled his master; and sought further excellence by a visit to Rome, and other places on the continent, where paintings were collected and preserved. On returning from Italy, where he had spent three years with Lord Keppel, he attracted the public notice and applause, by a full length portrait of his patron, the above nobleman. From this period he continued to advance in fame and fortune; and, by associating with the most distinguished literati of the age, by an amiable suavity of manners, and a union of literary and professional talents, he exalted his own honor with that of the arts and his country. He died much beloved, and lamented, February 23d, 1792, and was interred in the crypt of the Cathedral of St. Paul's, with every honor that could be shown to worth and genius by an enlightened nation. His pall was supported by three Dukes, two Marquisses, and five other Noblemen; and a numerous retinue of the most distinguished characters attended the funeral ceremony. Of his private and professional character, we shall give some account in the language of a living artist, as inserted in the supplement to Pilkingtons's Dictionary of Painters.

"In many respects, both as a man and a painter, Sir Joshua Reynolds cannot be too much praised, studied, and imitated, by every one who wishes to attain the like eminence. All nature, and all art, was his academy; and his mind was constantly awake, ever

* This gentleman was a native of Exeter, and was born in 1701. As a scholar, and son-in-law to Richardson, the painter and author, he derived some practical knowledge, recommendation, and connections. Though a very indifferent artist, when compared to his distinguished pupil, he obtained considerable business in painting "the honest similitudes" of country gentlemen, who were faithfully represented, as Walpole observes, "in the fair tied wigs, blue velvet coats, and white satin waistcoats," which constituted the fashionable dress of the time.

Digitized by Google

ever on the wing; comprehensive, vigorous, discriminating, and retentive. With taste to perceive all the varieties of the picturesque, judgment to select, and skill to combine what would serve his purpose, few have ever been empowered, by nature, to do more from the funds of his own genius; and none ever endeavoured more to take advantage of the labors of others, in making a splendid and useful collection, for which no expence was spared; his house was filled, to the remotest corners, with casts from the antique, pictures, statues, drawings, and prints, by the various masters of all the different schools and nations.

"Beautiful and seducing as his style undoubtedly was, it cannot be recommended in so unreserved a manner, as his industry both in study and practice. Coloring was evidently his first excellence, to which all others were, more or less, sacrificed; and though in splendor and brilliancy he was exceeded by Rubens and Paul Veronese, in force and depth by Titian and Rembrandt, and in freshness and truth by Velasquez and Vandyck, yet, perhaps, he possessed a more exquisite combination of all these qualities, and that peculiarly his own, than is to be found in the works of either of those celebrated masters.

"His discourses are written in an easy, agreeable manner, and contain many just observations, much excellent criticism, and valuable advice; but being undertaken before he had profoundly considered the subject, they are frequently vague and unintelligible, and sometimes contradictory."

The lines written on this great artist by his friend Goldsmith, are too characteristic to be omitted.

"Here Reynolds is laid; and, to tell you my mind,
He has not left a wiser or better behind.
His pencil was striking, resistless, and grand;
His manners were gentle, complying, and bland:
Still born to improve us in every part;
His pencil, our faces; his manners, our heart:
To coxcombs averse, yet most civilly steering,
When they judg'd without skill, he was still hard of hearing;
When they talk'd of their Raphaels, Correggios, and stuff,
He shifted his trumpet,* and only took snuff."

PLYMPTON

* Sir Joshua was so deaf, as to be obliged to use an ear-trumpet in company.

Digitized by Google

PLYMPTON ST. MARY is a village of considerable antiquity, and had formerly a college for a Dean and four Prebendaries, founded by one of the Saxon Kings. This foundation was dissolved by Warlewast, Bishop of Exeter, on the refusal of its inmates to discard their wives in obedience to the decrees made by the Synod held in London in the year 1102; by which celibacy was enjoined to the clergy. The rigid Prelate afterwards established a priory of canons regular here, which flourished in great splendor, through the various donations bestowed by the nobility and other persons. At the period of the Dissolution, its revenues were estimated at the annual value of 912l. 12s. 8d. and the site of the priory was then granted to Arthur Champernoune, Esq.

BORINGDON, the ancient seat of the Parkers, but now belonging to Lord Boringdon, is situated about five miles east of Plymouth. The house, which was built about the end of the fourteenth century, is now occupied by a farmer; and has been much altered, and diminished, since it was inhabited by the Parker family: though a fine old hall, and a few other good rooms, are still preserved. Close to the house is a deer park, containing between four and five hundred acres, which includes a variety of fine and picturesque scenery. The rich mass of ancient woods* which extend on the northern side of the park up to Dartmoor, the present noble proprietor is annually augmenting by considerable plantations; thus ornamenting the landscape, and rendering a tract of ground, which had ever continued almost useless, of national utility. At the north-eastern corner of the park are the trenches of a circular encampment, in a commanding and beautiful situation. The forest of Dartmoor, and many parts of Devon, formerly abounded with wild deer; and though they are now nearly exterminated, yet some have entered this park within these few years, and remained with the fallow deer during several months.

At the beginning of the last century, Lady Catherine Parker, (daughter of John Earl Paulett, who was Secretary of State to Queen Anne) transferred the family residence from Boringdon to SALTRAM,

* Cann Quarry, the slate of which is mentioned in page 31, is situated in these woods, in conjunction with which it forms a very romantic scene.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Engrav'd by T. Bonner, from a Drawing by Thompson, after a Sketch by Prout.

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

HALTRAM,
(the Seat of Lord Rivers,)
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

SALTRAM, where she enlarged a small dwelling, and made several improvements with a view of preserving it as a jointure-house. The superior beauty of this situation, perhaps, attracted the lady's attention, and induced her, and the subsequent occupiers, to continue the buildings and embellishments of the house and grounds. The latter possesses many singular attractions; for, exclusive of a great diversity of landscape, and massy woods, the prospects of Plymouth Sound, the Town, Citadel, Mount Edgcumbe, and the endless variety of effects peculiar to the sea, and harbour, are extremely interesting and amusing. The mansion, which is the largest in the county, extends about 135 feet in length on the southern and eastern sides; the western side measures 170 feet. The principal suite of apartments is on the ground floor: many of the rooms are fitted up with much elegance, and contain a numerous and valuable collection of paintings, by ancient and modern masters: the following are among the principal:

The Green Breakfast Room contains a Copy, by Dominichino, of Raphael's Galatea, in the Farnesine Palace at Rome. A small picture of Cattle; Cuyp. Madona and Child; Sasso Ferrato. Flight into Egypt; Gas. Poussin. A small piece, representing the Marriage of St. Catherine; Correggio; who made several pictures from the same design, most of which are in the palaces on the continent: this formerly belonged to Sir Joshua Reynolds. A picture, containing four Spanish Figures; Palemedes. Two small paintings, Sal. Rosa, representing Soldiers in a Rocky Scene. St. Anthony and Christ; Anth. Carracci. St. Catherine; Guido. SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, half-length; Angelica Kauffman. The Tribute Money; M. A. Caravaggio. A Landscape and Figures; Wouverman. Adoration of the Shepherds; Carlo Dolci. Madona and Child; Andrea del Sarto. A Landscape; Berghem. A small picture with four Figures; Vandyck.

In the Red Drawing Room is a Portrait of the MARQUIS OF GRANBY; by Moreland; and four Historical Pictures, by Angelica Kauffman.

In the Great Drawing Room is the BOLINGBROKE Family, consisting of nine figures, by Vandyck. A large picture with three

Digitized by Google

Female Figures; Rubens. Game; by Snyders. The Holy Family; Guido. Bacchanalians; Titian: this celebrated and esteemed picture was purchased of Sir Joshua Reynolds, by the late Lord Boringdon. Two Historical Pictures; Angelica Kauffman. A sitting Piece, containing six Figures; said to be by Vandyck. SIR THOMAS PARKER; Cor. Jansen.

The Blue Breakfast Room. Portrait of QUEEN ELIZABETH. Place of St. Mark, at Venice; Canaletti. Sea Piece, Vandervelde. Four Views of Naples; Ricchardelli. Two small Pictures; Albano. A small whole-length Portrait of CHARLES THE TWELFTH. Apollo and Daphne; Albano.

Billiard Room. Portrait of the MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Phæton; Stubbs: this spirited picture has been engraved. Sigismunda: a picture much admired for the expression and character which the painter has given to the heroine.

In the Great Stair Case is a large Landscape, by Wilson. The Decapitation of St. Paul; Guercino. Cattle; Rosa de Tivoli. A large picture of Animals, Snyders, &c.

In the upper apartments is a fine collection of Drawings, by Claude, Guercino, Vandervelde, and other ancient masters: and also Portraits, of MRS. ABINGDON; by Sir Joshua Reynolds: of the late LORD GRANTHAM; the late ISAAC BARRE; the present LORD PELHAM; by Stuart: the late SIR HYDE PARKER, by Northcote;* and of several other persons.

Among the great improvements lately made, and now making, by the noble proprietor of Saltram, may be specified a new approach, which, after passing through a gloomy wood, leads the visitor to a most delightful prospect of the sea, and its promontories, bays,

* James Northcote, Esq. R. A. and member of some foreign academies, is a native of Plymouth, where one of his ancestors was Mayor in 1658. During his mayoralty, he suffered materially in his fortune, by a singular circumstance, which strikingly characterizes the bigotry of the times. While at church on a Sunday, he was required to give currency to a proclamation issued by the Parliament, which, from scruples of piety, he refused, and was immediately sent for to London, and imprisoned; a circumstance that terminated in his ruin. The present James Northcote, who is a distinguished historical and portrait painter, has proved himself deserving of a niche among "the Worthies of Devonshire," by the application of taste and talent in the liberal art he professes.

Digitized by Google

bays, harbours, &c. This, though highly ornamental, is exceeded by an improvement truly useful; we mean the construction of a dry dock in Catwater Bay, for the repairing of merchantmen and trading vessels, which has been effected at a great expence by Lord Boringdon, and is sufficiently capacious for ships of seventy-four guns. The mild temperature of the weather in this part of Devon, is manifested by the flourishing condition of myrtles in the open air, and by the matured state of orange and lemon-trees, which produce ripe and perfect fruit.

PLYMOUTH,

THOUGH a place of considerable antiquity, and now one of the largest maritime towns in England, was inhabited principally by fishermen till the reign of Henry the Second. Since that period, the goodness of the haven,* which is formed by the conflux of the rivers Tamar and Plym with the Sea, and the vast augmentation of the naval force of Great Britain, have been the means of its attaining its present eminence. Its population is even greater than that of Exeter; and in this respect, if not in the number of its buildings, it is exceeded by no other place in Devon, than the town of Dock.

In the time of the Saxons, Plymouth, according to the Life of St. Indractus, was called *Tameorwerth:* after the Conquest, it acquired the name of *South Town*, or *Sutton:* and in the reign of Edward the First, of *Sutton-Prior*, and *Sutton-Valletort;* the north part of the town being situated on the lands of the Prior of Plympton, and the south part on the estate of the Valletorts. These names were relinquished in the reign of Henry the Sixth, for the more appropriate appellation of *Plym-mouth.*

* Plymouth Harbour comprehends the three divisions named, the Catwater, Hamoaze, and the Sound. The Catwater is a large expanse at the mouth of the river Plym: Hamoaze is a still more extensive bason, at the estuary of the Tamar: the Sound is the capacious bay formed by the influx of the sea with both the above rivers.

Digitized by Google

Plym christeneth that towne which beares her noble name;
Upon the British coast what ship yet ever came
That not of Plymouth heares?—where those brave Navy's lye,
From famous thundering flotte that all the worlde defye;
Which to invasive spoile, when the Englishe list to drawe,
Have check'd Hiberia's pride, and kept her still in awe:
Oft furnishing our dames with India's rare devices,
And lent us golde and pearle, with silks, and dainty spices.

DRAYTON'S POLY-OLBION.

About the commencement of the reign of Edward the Second, great disputes arose between the Prior of Plympton and the King, respecting certain rights and immunities claimed by the former, but always contested by the Crown. At length, by a writ issued from the Exchequer in the year 1313, a jury was summoned to examine the various claims, and determine the differences between the Prior and the King. By their decision, the Prior, in consideration of a fee-farm rent of 29l. 6s. 8d. annually, paid into the Exchequer for the use of his Majesty, was confirmed in the exercise of various privileges, and particularly of granting "leases of houses as lord of the fee; having a manor view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and beer, a ducking-stool, and pillory, and the right of fishery of the waters from the entrance of Catwater to the head of the river Plym." In the reign of Edward the Third, the manor came into the possession of John de Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, with the fishery of the waters, as ancient demesne. The claims advanced by the Earl occasioned new disputes; but on the declaration of a Special Jury, that the privileges enjoyed by the Prior and his tenants were bestowed by a charter of Henry the Third, the decision made in the time of Edward the Second was again confirmed.

About this period, Plymouth, which had been much enlarged by the prudence of the then Prior of Plympton, who granted building leases for small fines, became an object of jealousy to the French, who landed here, and endeavored to destroy the town by fire; but were repulsed, with the loss of 500 men, by Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, under whose conduct, the surrounding gentry, and their vassals, had associated with much celerity. In a

Digitized by Google

second attempt, made in the sixth year of Henry the Fourth, the French were more successful: their soldiers were mostly natives of Brittany, and were commanded by the Marshal of Bretagne, and Mons. de Castell. They landed near the part called Britton's side, and, before any effectual resistance could be made, burnt upwards of 600 houses; but failing in their attempt to destroy the castle, and higher part of the town, retired to their ships, and proceeded to Dartmouth, where de Castell, and several hundred men, were made prisoners. From the time of this occurrence till the reign of Henry the Sixth, the town dwindled to a mere fishing village: but it was then improved by the Prior of Plympton, who rebuilt many houses at his own expence; and, by liberally granting certain privileges, and leases at small fines, to persons willing to become residents, occasioned a considerable increase of inhabitants. Trade revived; and the spirit of industry and enterprize being awakened, its capacious port was again frequented by merchant and other vessels.

About the year 1438, the inhabitants of *Sutton-Prior*, and *Valletort*, petitioned Henry the Sixth for a charter of incorporation, and also that they might have a wall built round the town, for its better defence against the irruption of an enemy. In the ensuing year, the chief prayer of the petition was granted; and the town was incorporated by the style and title of the "Mayor and Commonalty of *Plymouth*." It was at the same time divided into four wards, named respectively, Old Town Ward, High-Vintre Ward, Lower-Vintre Ward, and Looe-Street Ward; having a Captain and inferior officers appointed to each; but the whole subjected to the controul of the Mayor.

In the fourth of Edward the Fourth, a confirmation of the liberties and franchises of Plymouth was granted to the Mayor and Commonalty, on condition of paying a fee-farm rent of 41l. to the Prior of Plympton, and ten marks to the Prior of Bath; and from this period, "the lordship of the fee of the manor of Sutton-Prior, and Sutton-Valletort, on the paying of the above compensation to Plympton Priory, was vested in the Mayor and Commonalty of Plymouth for ever; together with the assize of bread and beer,

Digitized by Google

fishery of the waters, view of frank-pledge, tolls of the markets, ducking-stool, and pillory." On the dissolution of the Monasteries, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, the entire lordship of the borough of Plymouth, with the patronage of St. Andrew's Church, the Hospital of White Friars, the Hospital of Grey Friars, and the Abbey of Cistercian Friars, (all situated within or near the town,) were granted by that Monarch to the Mayor and Commonalty, who still retain the greatest part of the advantages bestowed by this gift.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a new charter was granted to the town, through the solicitations of the celebrated Sir Francis Drake, by which the former charters were confirmed, and the Corporation more particularly defined, by the style and title of Mayor, Recorder, Town-Clerk, and twelve Magistrates, or Aldermen: these, by a provision of the charter, are to be assisted by twenty-four Common Councilmen, selected from the body of the Commonalty, or Freemen of the borough. Besides this service, a still more lasting benefit was rendered to the inhabitants by the patriotic exertions of the above gallant admiral, through whose skill and perseverance a stream of water was brought to the town* from the springs on Dartmoor, by a winding channel of nearly twenty-four miles in length. This noble undertaking was entirely executed at his own cost; and various mills were also erected on different parts of the stream, for the use of the town, at his expence.

In the year 1579, Plymouth was afflicted with a dreadful plague, supposed to have been occasioned by some cotton-wool that was landed out of a Smyrna ship without being properly aired.

* "The water is conveyed to all the houses by leaden pipes from a reservoir above the town, on the proprietor, or lessee, paying the Mayor and Commonalty, a fine of three guineas and a half for a lease of twenty-one years, and a quit-rent annually, of twelve shillings a year. Persons who use more water than private families, pay 1l. 4s. per annum; and brewers, 2l. 8s. per annum; as Sir Francis Drake vested the property in the Mayor and Commonalty of that day, and their successors, for ever. The lessees for the water pay also the cost of laying down the pipes."

History of the Port of Plymouth, &c. by B. R. Haydon.

Digitized by Google

aired. Upwards of 600 persons fell victims to its ravages: and so general was the fear of its spreading, that the annual ceremony of electing the Mayor was held in the open air, on Catdown, at some distance from the town. In 1581, the plague again broke out, and continued for several months; many of the inhabitants becoming victims to its virulence.

At the period of the expected invasion by the Spanish Armada, in the year 1588, a British fleet of 120 sail were assembled in Plymouth Sound, under the command of Lord Howard, and the Admirals Sir Francis Drake and Hawkins. This fleet sailed for Torbay to join the Exeter ships; and soon afterwards, on the Sunday following St. James's Day, the Grand Spanish Armada, which Papal arrogance had pronounced *invincible*, appeared off the coast, and lay to in form of a crescent. During the whole of Sunday, and the succeeding day, this unwieldy armament continued in sight of Penlee Point, Mount Edgcumbe, the Hoe, and all the adjacent shores; but afterwards proceeding to the eastward, it was furiously assailed by the British fleet; and the destruction thus commenced, being completed by a violent storm, the entire expedition was frustrated. Many natives of this town were among the brave seamen who manned the English ships on this occasion.

In 1595, the inhabitants of Plymouth, and its neighbourhood, were thrown into considerable alarm, by the intelligence that a body of Spaniards had landed in Cornwall, and burnt Mousehole, Newlyn, and some other places in that county. In the first moments of consternation, barricadoes were thrown up on all the roads leading to the town, and various precautions adopted to ensure its safety, should the Spaniards have advanced; but their progress being checked by Sir Francis Godolphin, the alarm subsided; and twenty-two chests of the Pope's bulls, and pardons, which had been seized in Cornwall, were afterwards brought to Plymouth, and publicly burnt in the market-place.

Nothing material occurred from this period till the year 1625, when Charles the First, with his whole court, came from Portsmouth, and remained here for ten days, with 120 sail, and 6000 troops. During his stay, he was sumptuously entertained by the

Digitized by Google

Mayor and Corporation. In the following year, Plymouth was a third time infected by a plague, which originated through negligence in the fumigation of some cotton, and raged with incredible fury, till nearly 2000 persons were destroyed.

About 1637, the Mayor and Commonalty petitioned Parliament to divide the town into two parishes, as it had greatly increased both in size and population; and in 1640, an act was obtained for this purpose, and for the erection of a new Church; but the Civil Wars which soon afterwards ensued, occasioned these designs to be suspended.

When the embers of discord, generated by the dissentions between Charles and the Parliament, burst into a flame, Plymouth very early declared for the latter; and the year 1643 forms a memorable era in the annals of its history, from the spirited resistance made by the inhabitants against the forces of Prince Maurice, who besieged it from September till the close of the year, without success. The means of defence possessed by the towns-people were, apparently, inadequate to resist the superior strength of the King's army; yet the resources created by enthusiasm, enabled them to hold out till relieved by the approach of the Parliament's forces, under the command of the Earl of Essex. The remains of various works constructed both for the defence and reduction of the town, may be still traced on its different sides.* After

* As the principal occurrences of this siege are narrated in a very scarce tract, published in the year 1644, we shall here insert a copy of the chief part: it will furnish a good idea of the confusion which reigned during the disastrous period of the Civil Wars. The tract is entitled

A true Narrative of the most observable Passages in and at the late Siege of Plymouth, from the 15th of September, 1643, till the 25th of December following, attested from thence under the Hands of the most credible Persons. Wherein is manifested to the World the handy Works of God, and his gracious Assistance to the United Forces of that Town and Garrison. Together with an exact Map and Description of the Town and Fortifications thereof, with the Approaches of the Enemy; as also the Summons of the Cavaliers to the Mayor and Governor of the said Town.

After Colonel Wardlow, Commander in Chief, and Colonel Gould, with the 600 men shipped at Portsmouth, about the 15th of September, for the relief of this town, had stopt at Torbay, and finding Dartmouth besieged, left 100 men there

Digitized by Google

After Essex had imprudently marched into Cornwall in pursuit of Sir Richard Grenville, leaving a superior army of Royalists in

 his

there for the strengthening that garrison, we arrived at Plymouth the last of September, which town had been blocked up by horse, so that no provision was brought in from the country for six weeks before; and having refreshed our men, and mounted some 150 of them on horseback, the enemy having only one regiment of foot, besides their horse, lying before us at their quarters at Plymstoke, and keeping a constant guard at Howe (Hoo) close under Mount Stamford, consisting of 300 foot and a troop of horse, which fort they intended first to assault. About nine days after our arrival, the 8th of October, we put over some 300 men in boats to Mount Stamford, and, at break of day, fell on and surprised the enemy's guard at Howe, took Captain Slawley, one ensign, and fifty-two common soldiers, prisoners, two colours, and three barrels of powder, and put the rest to flight, with the loss of only two men on our side: about the same time we secured some malignants in the town, and sent up three of them to the Parliament.

By this time the enemie had taken Dartmouth, and was on his march with his whole army to set down before us; and we received intelligence that the enemy kept a guard of two troops of horse at Knocker's Hole, about two miles from our works; the 15th October we sallied out with our horse and 200 foot musqueteers, surprised that guard, and had taken twenty or thirty prisoners; but about sixteen of our horse pursued the rest, that fled so fast, that their orders for a retreat could not overtake them, engaged themselves too farre, and returning laden with prey and prisoners, other troops of the enemie coming from their quarters on Robarow Downs, to answer the alarm, met with our pursuers, and took them all, save only Major Searle, who charged through them and escaped. Lieutenant Chasing, with fourteen men, were taken, and after escaped out of prison, and returned to us, save only two or three.

And now the enemie being settled in his quarters at Plympton, Plymstoke, Cawsand, Buckland, Tsunton, &c. Widey being head-quarters, with an army consisting of five regiments of horse, and nine regiments of foot, brought over-land from Yalme River thirteen fisher boats into Plunkett (Pomphlet) Mill Bay, over against Prince Rock, with an intention, as we conceived, to land men at Catdown in the night, which they did not attempt, but set on Mount Stamford in good earnest; and the 21st of October, in the night, they raised a square work within pistol-shot of Stamford fort, on the N. E. side, and from thence were drawing of a line with half-moons to surround the said fort, thereby to hinder our reliefs from coming into it. To prevent which, the same day we fell on the enemy in their new work they had raised, with all the disadvantages on our part that possibly could be imagined, exposing our open naked bodies to an enemy within a strength, and assisted by their horse, who much annoyed

his rear, the King determined to follow him, and having, by forced marches, arrived in the vicinity of Plymouth, he halted a few days to

us; we having none of our horse to assist us, nor could have, the sea being between us and them. After a long skirmish, and divers repulses, at last we got their half-moon, and after three hours hard fight, their close work, and in it Captain White, and fifty other prisoners, in which work we put a guard that night of thirty musqueteers, commanded by an Ensign, by whose treachery or cowardice, the enemy falling on in the night, the said guard quitted the work to them, without giving any alarm to the fort, (for which he was shot to death shortly after,) which cost us a new labour next day, with farre greater difficulty and danger than before, the enemy having of their horse and foot ready to second their guard in their new regained work, which yet we made our own after the loss on our part of Captain Corbett, who was shot in the forehead as he was encouraging the men as we fell upon their works, and three others of our Captains were also wounded this day and the day before, and we had in both fights some twenty men killed, and above 100 wounded, many of whom are since recovered. The enemy's loss was six Commanders of rank, whose names were concealed from us, and many men, besides those taken prisoners.

After we had gained the enemy's work the second time, we slighted it; but to prevent the like approaches in regard that Mount Stamford being a small work, and very untenable of itself, much less to keep so large a circuit of grounds as it was built to defend, we were necessitated to draw a line of communication both on the east and west sides of the work, to maintain a long ridge of ground, with half-moons at each end of the line, which we defended divers days with extraordinary duty to us and our men, and divers skirmishes with the enemy, till the 3d of November, when the enemy planted their batteries within pistol-shot of our forts, and on the 5th of November battered our works, with 200 demi-cannon, and whole culverine shot, besides other smaller cannon that continually played upon us, and flanked our line from Osan (Oreston) Hill, whereby a breach was made in the fort at several places, and the Lieutenant and some gunners of the fort slaine; the breach we repaired in the night, thickening the rampart as much as the smallness of our work would admit, and strengthened the weakest places with woollsacks. The next day they continued their battery till noon, with too much success, yet so as no considerable breach was made that day. The enemy, whether they had intelligence of the want of provisions and ammunition in the fort, about one of the clock fell on with horse and foot on our half-moons and lines, where we had a reasonable guard; but tired by eight days duty and long watching, after an hour's skirmishing, were enforced to retreat to the half-moons and breast-work, and were taken by the enemy's horse, who came on the backs of them. The Captain of the fort having but seven men left of thirty-six to manage the guns, seeing himself thus sur-

rounded

Digitized by Google

to refresh his soldiers. During his residence at Widey, between two and three miles from this town, where he had established his head

rounded by the enemy where no relief of provisions or ammunition could be brought to him from the town; and upon examination finding but two barrels of good powder, and a small quantity of case-shot with him, and no provisions, and having held off the enemy some two hours, and given a sign to the town by hanging out a wift, that he was in distress, and no relief came, and the townsmen, for some reasons which you shall hear anon, being unwilling to go over, and Colonel Gould's regiment being those that were tired, and put to the retreat, unfit to encounter the enemy's whole army thus fresh and victorious, the Captain yielded the fort on composition, about four of the clock, upon conditions that he should march off with colours flying, matches lighted, bullets in mouth, and a demi-culverine, the best in the work, with bagg and baggage, and that the enemy should exchange all the prisoners they had taken of ours that day, being about forty, for the like number of their prisoners with us, which the next day was effected accordingly: but we are unwilling to let the world know by whose treachery, at least neglect, this fort was lost, for want of convenient quantities of ammunition and provisions.

While the enemy was busied about Mount Stamford, we had begun to raise a work upon Haw Start, where our men retreated after they were beaten from Mount Stamford, which being unfinished, and the same wearied men enjoined to keep it till next morning, (for we had no other,) the townsmen refusing to go over for fear of the enemy's horse, quitted that place also, which the enemy soon after seized upon, and have there built a fort and divers batteries to hinder shipping from coming into the harbour, and others to shoot into the town, and at our windmill on the Hoe; but, notwithstanding, they have done no harm to any ship or boat that hath passed in or out for these two months past; nor hath any shot, of the many hundreds they have sent into the town from thence, done the least hurt to man, woman, or child, (except one woman hurt in the arm by a stone,) and but little to the houses, save that they shot off one vane of the windmill, which was presently new grafted; so that by experience we find the loss of Mount Stamford was the wonderful providence and goodness of God towards us, which had we kept, we must necessarily have lost the best part of our strength in the defence of it; our ships being beaten out of Catwater before we lost Mount Stamford by the enemy's cannon planted at Osan, and by a battery under Mount Edgcumbe, on the other side, from riding between the island and the main, so that they were fain to take Mill Bay for a sanctuary; nay, rather the loss of that was infinitely advantageous unto us, in the nearer uniting of our small strength for the defence of the town, and the offering an opportunity to us to seize upon the fort and island of St. Nicholas, the most considerable strength in the kingdom, which then were utterly destitute of provisions, ammunition,

Digitized by Google

head quarters, he issued a proclamation addressed to the *Plymouthians*, in which he commanded them, on their allegiance, to give

ammunition, or any thing else necessary for the defence of them: of which neglect, the authors of it, account may be given to the Parliament in due time; for in the very instant of the loss of Mount Stamford, while all men stood in doubt of the issue, Colonel Gould, by order from Colonel Ward, late Commander in Chief, took possession of both those places, and afterwards settled stronger garrisons, with store of provisions and ammunition of all sorts, in the said fort and island; the securing whereof, and at the request of the well-affected of the town, of four Deputy Lieutenants in them, of whose unfaithfulness to the State the townsmen had great suspicion, we have found since to be a most effectual means under God to preserve the town; for these persons and places being secured and victualled, the town, which before was altogether divided, and heartless in its defence, now grew to be united with a resolution to stick by us in the defence thereof; partly out of fear, knowing that the fort and island would be goads in their sides if the town should be lost; but especially from their assurance of our real intention to defend the town to the last man, by securing of those four Deputy Lieutenants whom they suspected, and by the many asseverations and resolutions of the Officers, that they would, when they could defend the town no longer, burn it to ashes, rather than the enemies of God and his cause should possess it, which resolution of theirs they confirmed by joining with us in a solemn vow and covenant for the defence of the town.

The enemy thus possessed of Mount Stamford, accounting now all to be his own, sends a trumpet to us with a summons, which was answered in silence. The same day Mount Stamford was taken, the enemy made an attempt upon Lypson work, but was repulsed with loss. The 11th November, a party of horse and musqueteers, were commanded out to Thornhill to guard in wood and hay; but they transgressed their orders, and pursued some of the horse of the enemy to Knocker's Hole, killed a Captain, and some common troopers, and took some prisoners; but staying too long, drew the main body of the enemy's horse among them, and Major Leyton, striving to make good their retreat, was taken in the rear, after he had received five wounds.

And now the enemy having refreshed his men, and having secured his new gotten purchase of Stamford, about the 16th of November, sits down on the north side of our town; we, in the mean time, being busied in mending up some hedges, that were formerly pulled down between the works: the outer line of communication we yet have scarce defensible against the stormings of horse, yet such places we must now resolve to defend upon equal terms with the enemy; for the works are at such a distance from each other, and the grounds so uneven, that an enemy may in some places approach within the works,

Digitized by Google

give up the town to him. This proclamation was sent by a trumpeter to the Mayor and Governor, who peremptorily refused to surrender;

works, without any molestation by them. On the 18th of November, 1643, the enemy planted his battery against Lypson work, but could not approach within musket shot to batter our work at Lypson, in regard of a deep valley between, by reason whereof, after three days battery, they did little execution.

About this time, one Ellis Carteret, a malignant mariner, was accused, and laid fast, for tampering with Roger Kemborn, the chief gunner of Maudline work, to blow up the said work, the powder-room being buried in it, and he having the keys, which was discovered by the said Kemborn, after he had concealed it divers days, God not suffering his conscience to give him rest till he had revealed it. On the apprehension of Carteret, Henry Pike, a vintner, and Moses Collins, an attorney, two notorious malignants, conceived to be privy to this tamper, fled to the enemy; and, upon the 3d day of December, being Lord's day, the enemy (as is credibly informed) guided by these two renegadoes, with four hundred musqueteers, three hours before day, surprised our guard at Lory Point, and in it three pieces of ordnance. The work is but a half-moon, and the guard there placed only to give the alarm, if the enemy should approach Lory Point over the sands when the tide is out: by which means, the enemy coming under Lypson work, (being a false variable ground to them, by reason of its steepness,) and coming on the back of our guard, easily surprised it. The alarm being given to the town, 150 horse, and 300 musqueteers, at break of day, were ready to fall on upon the enemy that were possest of our work; which the enemy at Mount Stamford perceiving, (for we fell on the south side of the hill from the enemy's view,) gave the main body of the enemy, which was in quarters at Compton, Buckland, Widey, and Knocker's Hole, all in arms, a warning piece, upon which Prince Maurice, and all the gallantry of their army, with five regiments of horse, and four of foot, (having in the night made their way with pioneers,) advanced under protection of their own ordnance, and a hedge, which they possest, where we usually had our sentries, and where we have since built a work under Lypson, to the assistance of those who, in the night, had surprised our guard; we were in hopes to have beaten off the enemy before their seconds came up, and, with horse and foot falling resolutely on them, met with strong opposition; and Captain Wansey, a gallant man, charging at a gap which formerly he knew to be open, but now made up by the enemy, was unfortunately slain; which made our horse give ground, and both horse and foot, after an absolute route for three fields together, at which time some of the enemies horse mixed themselves with ours, and came within pistol-shot of the walls, and were killed or taken; when a stand being made upon the height of the hill above Lypson work, and fresh men being drawn from several guards, our men

Digitized by Google

surrender; yet, as the King's forces were of considerable strength, and so near at hand, they called a council of war in the Guildhall; and

men being encouraged, we held our ground for several hours, during which time, our ships at Lory Point seeing our guard were taken, entertained a parley with the enemy, and so stood neuter till we had beaten the enemy to a retreat; for which some are in question for their life. The enemy likewise sent a trumpet to Lypson work to summons it, and was answered with a cannon. After the trumpet was ordered to depart, and we having gotten together a small drake planted in the crossway, discharged it four or five times on the enemy's horse with good execution; and giving a sign by sound of drum, when our several commanded places should fall on, the enemy began to give ground; and some two hundred of the train-bands of the town being come to our assistance, and a party of some sixty musqueteers sent about to play on the backs of the enemy, was no sooner perceived by the enemy, but he commanded a retreat, which was followed so close by us, that it was little better than a hasty flight; for, retreating most partly over the Lory, and not the same way they came on, their rear guard of horse, of about one hundred, being cut off from their way of retreat, were forced into the mud, between Lypson work and Lory Point, and the horse were taken, or drowned when the sea came in; some of the riders crawling through the mud, hardly escaped; many of the enemy were killed in their retreat by our horse and foot, and by the ships at Lory Point, who then grew honest again; of the prisoners we took a Captain Lieutenant of horse, and one Langford, a priest, that was a Captain, and some thirty soldiers, and thirteen barrels of powder, two teams of horses with furniture, by which they were drawing up our ordnance against us. Of ours, the enemy took in our first retreat, one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Ensign, forty common men, besides a Captain, and twelve men killed; and 100 more wounded, of whom some are since dead. The Lord showed himself wonderfully in our deliverance: in that, when the enemy had gotten a ground of advantage, and were ten to one against us, yet was pleased, by our handful, to drive them back another way than they came. The same day the enemy, with horse and foot, assaulted Penny-Com-Quick work, and were repulsed with much loss. The enemy being thus repulsed, suffered us to be quiet (as his usual manner was) for fifteen or twenty days after; in the mean time, gathering his routed troopers, save that one night he fell upon a work we were raising under Lypson, called Lypson Mill work, for the prevention of the enemy's incursion again that way, and partly slighted it; our guard there quitting it without a shot, from which they suddenly entered it again, and the work was re-edified.

Upon the 18th of December, the enemy began to batter; but by reason of our counter battery, which played constantly into their works through their ports,

Digitized by Google

and the meeting being attended by the principal inhabitants, it was unanimously resolved to defend the town to the utmost extremity

ports, whereby their men could not stand safely by their ordnance, we having the advantage of playing down upon them from a commanding ground, the enemy in two days time could do no good with his batteries; but on Wednesday night, the 20th of December, through the carelessness of the Captain of the guard, that sent out sentries *perdue*, it being a wet and dark night, the enemy raised a square work, with the help of a corner of a field, within pistol-shot of Maudline work, almost in a direct line between that and Penny-Com-Quick, which if they had held, might have cut us off from the relief of that work.

In the morning of the 21st day of December, as soon as it was discovered, the ordinary guard there, being some threescore men, fell on, in hope to have regained it without any more help, but found their work guarded with two or three hundred men, and so were fain to retreat till help came from the town; and then about nine of the clock in the morning, having horse and foot in readiness, we fell upon their work, and received the repulse twice; once after we had gained the work; but our men, heartened with the assistance of some fresh men, and backed with most of the strength we could make, fell on, took, and slighted the enemy's work; took prisoners, a Captain, Prince Maurice's trumpeter, and some few others more, and killed that day near one hundred men: there were taken of ours by the enemy, two Lieutenants. Upon the enemy's retreat, we could hardly dissuade our soldiers from falling on their works to gain their ordnance, but we had too few men to adventure on so hazardous a design. The next day we could see the enemy preparing to draw off their ordnance; and on Christmas Day, 25th of December, 1643, in the morning, they drew off their guards from about us, being the same day that Prince Maurice promised his soldiers they should be in Plymouth.

The enemy now quartered at Tavistock and Plympton to refresh their men, and to recruit for a fresh siege, and for the present they block us up from provisions, having driven all the country before them of all sorts of cattle, so that we cannot subsist long, unless store of provisions be sent us; but if we may have a considerable supply of men, money, arms, for horse and foot, sent us with speed, by God's assistance, we may be able to take the field; for all the country is inclined to us, which opportunity we hope the *Parliament* will not neglect.

One remarkable passage of God's providence to us, we must with thankfulness relate, remember, and acknowledge, that, after the town had been a long time besieged strictly, and no fresh victual, either fish or flesh, could be had; whereby the poor people were grievously punished; there came an infinite multitude of pilchards into the harbour within the barbican, which the people took

Digitized by Google

nity. At this period the works were in a state of ruin; but as an attack was hourly expected, the troops began to repair them; and being assisted by the women, and even children, proceeded in their labor with such rapidity, that in a few days they were in as complete a state of defence as before the siege. On several days the King, with his body guard of cavalry, and trumpets, advanced to the head of Townsend Hill, and were constantly received by a brisk fire of cannon from the whole line on that side; so that, after a short time, they as regularly retired. The eminence on which they stood, was, by the inhabitants of Plymouth, jocosely named Vaporing Hill; an appellation which it still occasionally bears.

On the return of King Charles from Cornwall, after the discomfiture of the army commanded by Essex, he dislodged a party of the garrison of Plymouth from Plympton, whither they had advanced to obtain plunder and provisions. Soon afterwards he proceeded to Newbury, leaving the army of Sir Richard Grenville to besiege the town a second time; yet his endeavors proved as fruitless as the

took up with great ease in baskets; which did not only refresh them for the present; but a great deal more were taken, preserved, and salted, whereby the poor got much money; such a passage has not happened before.

We cannot forget the great humanity of the good women of Plymouth, and their courage in bringing out strong waters, and all sorts of provisions, in the midst of all our skirmishes and fights, for the refreshing of our soldiers; though many women were shot through the clothes. We cannot omit to set down also here, that in a few days after our arrival home, one Sampson Hele, Esq. of Fardel, came on a message from the Prince, to persuade the yielding of it; but coming without drum or trumpet, for his offence, he was persuaded to yield us 2000l. for the payment and clothing of our soldiers; without which we could not possibly have subsisted so long.

The enemy's word was, *The town is ours;* and our word was, *God with us.* We had, upon the loss of Mount Stamford, a day of humiliation; and, upon God's deliverance of us at Lory Point, a day of thanksgiving; and another since the siege was raised. The chief Commanders before us were, Prince Maurice, Earls of Marlborough and Newport, Lord Mohun, Lieutenant-General Wagstaff, Major-General Bassett, Sir Thomas Hele, Sir Edmund Fortescue, Sir J. Grenville, Sir R. Cave, Sir James Coburne, Sir J. Digby, Sir P. Courtenay, and divers others considerable persons.

Digitized by Google

the former ones; and, after a blockade of some weeks, and making several ineffectual attacks on the works of Lipson, Lipson Hill, and Mawdlyn, he drew off his forces.

In the year 1654, a special order was directed to the Mayor, from Oliver Cromwell, then Protector, directing, that, in future, all persons who wished to be married, must be united at the Guildhall, by the Mayor and Justices for the time being. This occasioned a considerable ferment among all ranks of the inhabitants; and a sort of remonstrance, though in a very submissive style, being exhibited against it, the order was made peremptory, on the grounds that marriage was a civil contract.* In 1670, Charles the Second visited Plymouth, and was presented by the Corporation with a purse containing 150 broad pieces.

In the year 1683, the charter of the town was surrendered to the King on the requisition of Judge Jefferies, and a new one was granted at an expence of 417l. 19s. which vested the power in ten Aldermen and twelve Assistants only. This continued in force till the latter end of the year 1697, when the old charter was restored, though not before upwards of 600l. had been ineffectually expended. The manner of electing the new Mayor, is singular: Two persons are first chosen by the Mayor and Aldermen, and called *Alfurers*; two others, under the same appellation, are chosen by the Common Council-men; these four select a jury of thirty-six, and by them the Mayor is elected.† This mode of choice has in two or three instances been found inconvenient; for the Jury being equally divided in favor of different persons, no Mayor could be elected till one party receded from their determination;

* In the records of the Corporation, under the Mayoralty of Samuel Northcote, are the following entries relative to the payment of the Members of Parliament, who represented Plymouth in the time of the Protectorate.—"Paid also Mr. Christopher Ceeley, for his charges and service in the Parliament, as one of the Burgesses of this borough, the sum 28l. 11. 0d. Then paid Mr. Timothy Alsop, for his charges and service in the Parliament, as one of the Burgesses of this borough, from the 19th of January, 1658, until the 7th of June, 1659, 45l. 0s. 0d."

† Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II.

Digitized by Google

nation; and this has seldom been the case till the Corporation has been compelled to appoint a Mayor by a writ of mandamus. The right of returning the Members of Parliament is in the Mayor and Commonalty; the latter word being by a decision of the House of Commons, in the year 1639, limited to the freemen only. The number of voters is about 160. The first return was made in the twenty-sixth or thirty-third of Edward the First, when the borough was called Sutton.

Various fortifications have at different times been erected for the security of Plymouth, and it is now in a very respectable state of defence. The most ancient fort of which there is any mention, was built in the reign of Edward the Third, by Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, and is described by Leland, as a "strong castel quadrate, having at eche corner a great round tower." This fortress stood on the south of the town, near the barbican, which has lately been formed into a new pier; but the only vestiges now remaining, are parts of the eastern towers. Numerous block-houses and platforms were erected on different points of the harbour in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and several of the latter were methodized, about the years 1591 and 1592, into a regular fort, called the Fort on the Hoe Cliffs, which was demolished on the building of the *Citadel* in the time of Charles the Second, in the years 1670 and 1671. This strong fortress consists of three regular and two irregular bastions; and the curtains of the regular bastions are further strengthened by two ravelins, and horn-works. On the east, north, and west sides, is a deep ditch, counterscarp, and covered way, pallisadoed. The parapets, in time of war, are mounted with a great number of cannon; the garrison is generally composed of several companies of invalids. The prospects from this fortress comprehend a great variety of interesting objects: on the west and north-west, is Maker Tower, Mount Edgcumbe Woods, the Town of Dock, Mount Wise, and the entrance of the river Tamar; on the south west, the beautiful bay of Cawsand, the Sound, the vast expanse of the British Channel, and in clear weather, the distant rock of Edystone; on the east, the picturesque scenery of Saltram, Plympton-Mary Vale, and the river, skirted

Digitized by Google

at the extremity by the lofty hills of Dartmoor. The Lower Fort, connected with the Citadel, and chiefly intended to defend the Sound, was planned and executed by Captain Horneck, an able engineer. Besides these works, several batteries and block-houses have been raised on the different points of the harbour: but its chief security are the fortifications on *St. Nicholas' Isle*, which rises in the entrance, and is connected with the south-west shore by a range of rocks. These are uncovered at low tides; and no vessel, even at high water, can pass this ridge but those of very small burthen: large vessels are obliged to make a circuit of at least two miles. The extent of the Isle is between two and three acres: its natural strength, though considerable, has been greatly improved by art. Besides the batteries, here is a furnace for heating shot.

Near the Citadel is the *Victualling Office*, an extensive range of buildings, where the ovens for supplying the navy with bread, and the ingenuity exercised in preparing it for baking, present a very amusing picture.* The bake-houses are only two, but each contains four ovens, which are heated eight times a day, and in the course of that time, bake a sufficient quantity of bread for 16,000 men! The granaries are large, and well constructed: when the wheat is ground, the flour is conveyed into the upper stories of the bake-houses, whence it descends through a trunk in each, immediately into the hands of the workmen, and the whole process of preparing it for the oven is equally simple and ingenious.

* "The meal, and every other article, being supplied with much certainty and simplicity, large lumps of dough, strictly a mixture of flour and water, are mixed up together; and as the quantity is so immense as to preclude, by any common process, a possibility of kneading it, a man manages, or, as it is termed, *rides* a machine which is called a horse. This machine is a long roller, apparently about nine inches in diameter, and about seven or eight feet in length. It has a play to a certain extension, by means of a staple in the wall, into which is inserted a kind of eye, making its action like the machine by which they cut chaff for horses. The lump of dough being placed exactly in the centre, the man sits upon the end of the machine, and literally rides up and down throughout its whole circular direction, till the dough is equally indented, and this is repeated till it is sufficiently mixed; at which times, by the different positions of the lines, large or small circles are described, according as they are near to, or distant from, the wall, till you have fairly the idea of an immense pentagraph.

"The

Digitized by Google

Plymouth is situated at the mouth of the Plym, at no great distance from its junction with the ocean. The streets in general are ill-constructed,

" The dough in this state is handed over to a second workman, who slices it with a prodigious knife; and it is then in a proper state for the use of those bakers who attend the oven. These are five in number; and their different departments are as well calculated for expedition and correctness, as the making of pins, or working of printing types. On each side of a large table where the dough is laid, stands a workman; at a small table, near the oven, sits another; a fourth stands by the side of the oven, to receive the bread; and a fifth, to supply the peel. By this arrangement the oven is as regularly filled, and the whole exercise performed in as exact time as a military evolution.

" The man on the further side of the large table pats the dough, having previously formed it into small pieces, till it has the appearance of muffins; and as fast as he accomplishes this task, he delivers his work over to the man on the other side of the table, who flattens the pieces on both sides with a mark, on which are cut the broad ⚓, the letters P L Y, and the number of the oven in which the biscuits are to be baked. As he rids himself of this work, he throws the pieces on the smaller table next the oven, where sits the third workman, whose business is merely to split the different pieces into two, and place them immediately under the hand of him who supplies the oven; whose work of throwing, or rather chucking, the bread upon the peel, must be so exact, that if he looked round for a single moment, it is impossible he should perform it correctly. The fifth receives the bread on the peel, and arranges it in the oven; in which duty he is so very expert, that, though the different pieces are thrown at the rate of seventy in a minute, the peel is always disengaged in time to receive them separately.

" As the oven stands open during the whole time of filling it, the biscuits first thrown in would be first baked, were there not some counteraction to such an inconvenience. The remedy lies in the ingenuity of the man who forms the pieces of dough, and who, by imperceptible degrees, proportionably diminishes their size, till the loss of that time which is taken up, during the filling of the oven, has no more effect to the disadvantage of one of the biscuits, than to another.

" So much critical exactness, and neat activity, occurs in the exercise of this labor, that it is difficult to decide whether the palm of excellence is due to the *patter*, the *marker*, the *splitter*, the *chucker*, or the *depositer*; the whole of them, like the wheels of a machine, seeming to be actuated by the same principle. The business is to deposit in the oven seventy biscuits in a minute, and this is accomplished with the regularity of a clock; the clack of the peel, during its motion in the oven, operating as the pendulum.

" The

Digitized by Google

structed, narrow, irregular, and some of them steep; many of the bye streets are peculiarly filthy. Its trade is extensive, though depending principally on shipping, and the royal navy. The pilchard fishery at this port is considerable, and great quantities of the fish are exported to Italy, and other parts of the Mediterranean. Merchant vessels generally take in their lading, and deposit their cargoes, at Sutton-Pool, where they are more secure from the violence of storms, than those which lie either in the Sound, or in Catwater. On the west side of the Pool, a new and convenient pier was erected, in the year 1790, at the expence of Government, chiefly to arrest the tempestuous fury of the waves from the south-west.

In Plymouth are two spacious Churches: the most ancient is dedicated to St. Andrew,* and consists of a nave, side aisles, and chancel, with a tower at the west end, ornamented with pinnacles: this structure contains several curious and ancient monuments. The other was began in the year 1646, on the division of the town into two parishes, according to the act passed in the year 1640: this is consecrated to the memory of Charles the First, and is called Charles' Church. Sectarists are numerous; and meeting-houses have been erected for the various denominations of Independants, Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, Roman Catholics, and some others; and also a synagogue for Jews. The Theatre is a large and neatly ornamented building.

" The biscuits, thus baked, are kept in repositories, which receive warmth from the ovens, till they are sufficiently dry to be packed into bags without danger of fermentation; and when in such a state as not to become mouldy, they are, thus packed, removed into storehouses. Each bag contains an hundred weight." *Dibdin's Observations on a Tour, &c.* Vol. I. p. 104.

* "About the year 1637, a great contest arose between the Corporation and the Vicar of St. Andrews, relative to certain encroachments made by the former against the Vicar's rights. The dispute became so violent, that the business was referred to the Delegates of the Star Chamber, who, by a decree, dated the 10th of May, 1637, disallowed the Vicar's claims. Among other contested points, was a complaint of an encroachment made by the Corporation on the east side of the church-yard, by building a row of shambles, and other houses; and also of another encroachment on the west side, by building an hospital where the Vicar had anciently a house." *Haydon.*

Digitized by Google

The Guildhall has been just rebuilt on the site of a more ancient one; it is a spacious structure, very injudiciously situated at the junction of four streets. Within the late Guildhall, among several fine portraits, was one of SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, which tradition affirms to be a good likeness. This gallant seaman is represented in the dress of the times, leaning his hand on the terrestrial globe, "which he had so often traversed with so much honor to himself and country." The markets are well supplied, and particularly with fish; though much of the latter is engrossed for the consumption of Bath and London.

The education of youth is, in some degree, provided for at Plymouth, by the establishment of a very considerable Sunday School, which is supported by voluntary contribution; several charity-schools; and a Free Grammar School, erected in the year 1573, and endowed for a Master, with a salary of 30l. per annum, a dwelling-house, and garden. The present master is the Rev. J. Bidlake, A. B. a gentleman of considerable literary reputation, under whose auspices the respectability of the school has much increased. A House of Industry has also been established in this town; between which and Stonehouse is the *Royal Hospital*, a very extensive building, erected for the relief of sick and hurt seamen, and marines. This institution is provided with every appropriate convenience, and the general management is judicious and praise-worthy.

As the inhabitants of Plymouth consist in a great measure of persons connected with the army and navy, there is, in consequence, a continued fluctuation: the number returned under the late act was 19,040. A Reading Society, and several Book Clubs, have lately been established here, through the exertions of a few spirited individuals, whose liberal patronage have procured the town a higher literary character than it had hitherto obtained.

The distinguished and brave admiral, SIR JOHN HAWKINS, was a native of this town, and commanded the rear of the fleet which defeated the Spanish Armada. He was afterwards made Treasurer of the Navy; but his memory is disgraced from his having been the first Englishman who introduced the Slave Trade, from the coast of Africa, into the West-Indies; where he died in the year 1595. JOSEPH GLANVILLE, a divine and philosopher,

Digitized by Google

and author of the celebrated "Treatise of Spirits and Witchcraft," was likewise born at Plymouth, in the year 1636. Besides that Treatise, he wrote several controversial tracts, and was generally esteemed as an acute and lively writer; though too much swayed by credulity. He died at Bath, at the age of forty-four.

STONEHOUSE is a very populous and improving place, extending from Plymouth, towards Dock. In the twenty-seventh of Henry the Third, it belonged to Joel de Stonehouse, but, by various marriages, has since passed into the family of Edgcumbe. The buildings are in general good; and near the barracks is the *Long Room*, where assemblies are held during the summer season, and on public nights: the company is generally formed of the most respectable inhabitants, both of Plymouth and Dock. The population of Stonehouse, according to the late return, was 3407. The *Marine Barracks* are a noble range of buildings, on the east side of Stonehouse, of a quadrangular form, and built with granite.

Stonehouse Bridge, which is the principal avenue between Plymouth and Dock, is a neat stone fabric, of one arch. It was erected at the joint expence of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart. in lieu of an inconvenient ferry, where passengers were pulled over in a boat, to each end of which a rope was fixed, and where no one could pass after the hours of nine in summer, and eight in winter. Foot passengers, horsemen, and carriages, pay a toll at this bridge; the rent of which, during the late war, was upwards of 400l. per annum.

DOCK, OR PLYMOUTH-DOCK,

THE most populous town in Devon, is situated about two miles from Plymouth, on the eastern bank of Hamoaze, and, together with the village of Stoke, Morice Town, the Dock-Yard, Gun-Wharf, Military Hospital, and other buildings, is comprehended in the manor and parish of Stoke-Damerel. This manor contains upwards of 1600 acres of land, the whole of which, with the exception of the glebe, the two tenements of Swilly and Ford, and what has been purchased by the Board of Ordnance,

Digitized by Google

for the purpose of fortification, is the property of Sir John St. Aubyn,* who inherits it from his great uncle, Sir William Morice, Bart. a descendant of Sir William Morice, Secretary of State to Charles the Second, and mentioned by Clarendon, as having been instrumental in promoting the Restoration. This gentleman purchased it of Sir William Wise for about 11,000l. It had previously been made a free warren by the above Monarch.

This town, though of such considerable magnitude, is wholly of modern date, and owes its origin, and rapid increase, to the establishment of the Dock-Yard and naval arsenals. It stands on a pleasant eminence, between Stonehouse Creek on the east, and Hamoaze on the west. Very few, if any, of the houses which compose it, had existence till the beginning of the last century; and even in 1731, as appears from a plan of the manor then taken, it had scarcely attained one-fourth of its present size: the chief part of the buildings have, indeed, been erected since the year 1760. The town, independent of North Corner, and Cannon-Street, which branch off to the westward, is of an oblong figure, inclining to a trapezium; the longest side of which, from north to south, measures about 3000 feet; its breadth, at the south end, from east to west, is about 1600 feet; and at the north end, about 1200 feet. The streets are regular, and well built, and, with one exception, nearly intersect each other at right angles: their general width is from thirty to fifty feet; most of them having been built under the direction of commissioners appointed by act of Parliament. The town is well paved; the foot-paths with marble obtained on the manor, and which having received a considerable polish from the feet of passengers, and action of the weather, has a very beautiful appearance, when washed by a shower.

The

* Sir John, however, may be considered as lord of the whole, as the presentation of the living rests in him, and a small quit-rent is annually paid him by the proprietors of the above tenements. The manor has the privilege of a court-leet, and court-baron, which are held in the town of Dock. The soil, though shallow, is in general good, and produced, during the late war, from ten to twelve, fourteen, and even sixteen pounds, per acre. Within the manor, are many good slate and lime-stone quarries.

Digitized by Google

The number of houses in Dock is about 2400. These were wholly erected by the inhabitants, to whom the Lords of the Manor granted leases for ninety-nine years, determinable by the deaths of three lives of the builders' nomination, and subject to a certain annual quit-rent, of probably from three shillings to fourteen, according to the space of ground occupied; with a heriot, double the quit-rent, on the death of each life. The original leases were renewable on the dropping of a life, on paying a fine to the lord of the manor, equal to about three years value of the premises. In the year 1791, a plan of perpetual renewal, at a fine certain, was presented to the inhabitants by Sir John St. Aubyn; the basis of which was, that the tenant should constantly keep his premises full lived, by nominating some fresh person within a year after the dropping of any one of the then existing lives; and paying for this privilege, a small addition of yearly conventionary rent, and a fine of about two years clear value of the premises. These terms, not being so favorable as those held out by Lord Mount Edgcumbe for buildings at Stonehouse, and by R. P. Carew, Esq. at Torpoint, on the Cornish side of the Tamar, met at first with many opponents: but latterly the inhabitants appeared sensible of the advantages attending them; and all the houses which by the dropping off of lives, on the original plan, came into the lord's hands, were leased accordingly. At present, however, Sir John declines granting any more leases on these terms, or even on the old mode of holding for three lives; the houses which now fall into his hands, as well as the lands of the manor, are let at a yearly rent, for seven years only. The present annual income is considered as amounting to about 6000l. but whenever the whole of the lands and houses of the manor, not on perpetual renewal, reverts to the proprietor, little doubt can be entertained, but that the rental will increase to upwards of 80,000l. per annum.

The town of Dock, and the Dock-Yard, are defended by strong fortifications. The first act for this purpose was passed in the thirty-first of George the Second; but the works have been much improved under an act made in the twenty-first of his present Majesty. On the north-east and south sides, the town is bounded

Digitized by Google

by a wall about twelve feet high, called the King's interior boundary wall, which was began to be built in the year 1787, under the direction of the Duke of Richmond: the western side is skirted by the Dock-Yard and Gun-Wharf. Without the wall is a line, or breast-work, with a ditch from twelve to eighteen and twenty feet deep, excavated from the solid slate and lime-stone rock. These lines were planned by a Mr. Smelt, who belonged to the engineer department, and were begun about the year 1755, or 1756: the ground lying between the King's interior boundary wall, and the front of the glacis of the lines,* includes about 195 acres, and was purchased by Government in the year 1758. This space is partly occupied by the Governor's House; a handsome building, completed about the year 1795, (before which the seat of government was within the Citadel at Plymouth;) and six squares of barracks, of one story high only. In these squares, which were began in the year 1757, and originally intended for two battalions only, the troops garrisoning the place are lodged. In the lines are three barrier gates: the North Barrier, which leads to the new passage across the Tamar; the Stoke Barrier, leading towards Tavistock; and the Stonehouse Barrier, conducting towards Stonehouse, Plymouth, &c. Of the other fortifications, the principal are a Battery on Mount Wise, (where the ancient seat of the *Wises*, formerly lords of the manor, stood;) another at the Obelisk Hill, near Mount Edgcumbe; and the Redoubt and Block-House on Mount Pleasant, which commands the capitol of the lines.

The

* Shortly after the alarm spread through the western coasts by the appearance of the combined fleets of France and Spain, off Plymouth, in the year 1779, directions were given by the Ordnance Board for the repair of these works, which were then, from the shallowness of the ditch, and other causes, incapable of much defence; and for the construction of sundry other works of defence in the vicinity. The late General Dixon, then commanding engineer, not being able to obtain a sufficient number of men, was assisted by Francis Basset, Esq. of Tehidy, (now Lord de Dunstanville,) who brought up a party of Cornish miners, amounting to about 1000. By them the works were immediately began, and brought into their present form in the beginning of the year 1783.

Digitized by Google

The DOCK-YARD,* even in its present unfinished state, is acknowledged to be one of the finest in the world. When it was first used as a naval arsenal is uncertain; but as the Bason and its Dock are the most ancient, though not made till the reign of William the Third, it seems evident that this was a place of little consequence before that period. The Dock-Yard is separated from the town by a wall of slate and lime-stone, in some places thirty feet high, extending from North Corner on the north, to Mutton Cove on the south. The area within these bounds is seventy-one acres, and thirty-six poles; inclusive of the projecting parts of the Jetties. But a small part is the property of Government; sixty-five acres, two roods, and twenty-three poles, being held of Sir John St. Aubyn, on a lease for twenty-one years, subject to an annual rent of 50s. per acre; and a fine of 534l. 4s. 6d. or three years value, on every renewal, which must be made every seven years, under the penalty of an entire forfeiture of the lease. The first lease, granted by Sir William Morice in the year 1728, was for forty acres only; the remaining part was inclosed in 1768.

The entrance to the Dock-Yard from the land side is from Fore-Street, by a large gate for carriages, &c. and a small one for foot passengers. These are guarded with the utmost vigilance by three under porters, and two military centinels, who suffer no person to enter who is not well known, or in uniform, without an order in writing from the Commissioners. Immediately within the gates is the Master Porter's House; nearly in front of which a reservoir is intended to be made, to admit the water which has been lately brought into the yard. Near this house is a small neat Chapel, consisting of two aisles, and a tower: the tower and one aisle were erected in the year 1700; as appears by the following inscription over the south door:

In

* A tradition is current here, that the Dock-Yard was first proposed to be established at Saltash, about four miles up the Tamar, on the Cornish side; but that the principal inhabitants, after repeated consultations thereon, declined the proffered favor; under the apprehension that they would be deprived of part of their *gardens*, and that the *poor's rates would probably increase!*

Digitized by Google

In the 11th Year of the Reign of King William the Third, An. Dom. 1700, this Chapel was founded and built by the generous and pious Contributions of Officers and Seamen belonging to a Squadron of Men of War, paid off in this Yard, (after ten Years expensive War with France,) being propagated and carried on by the Industry and religious Endeavors of George St. Leo, Esq. Commissioner of the said Yard, and Comptroller of the said Pay.

The other aisle was erected by the Rev. Mr. Hughes, the late incumbent; on the condition that he should receive the emolument arising from letting the pews; which he continued to do till the year 1787, when Government returned the sum he had expended in the buildings, and appropriated the Chapel exclusively to the officers and artificers of the Navy and Dock-Yard. Besides a regular stipend, paid by Government, the chaplain receives two-pence per month from the pay of each of the officers and seamen belonging to the ships laid up in ordinary. In front of the chapel is the Military Guard Office, and over it the Navy Pay Office. A captain's guard of marines do duty here; and, in addition to them, a great number of watchmen are employed during the night, all of whom are laborers belonging to the yard.

From the gates, a flat paved road, skirted with elms, leads to the *Officers' Dwelling Houses*, which are thirteen in number, built of brick, three stories high, with kitchens beneath, and pleasant gardens behind: in front is a double row of lime-trees. The houses are inhabited by the Commissioner; Master Shipwright; his three Assistants; two Masters Attendant; Clerks of the Cheque, Survey, and Rope-yard; the Storekeeper, Surgeon, and Boatswain. Before the houses is a flat paved walk, which is flanked at each end by buildings two stories high; one of which is the Commissioner's Office, the other that of the Clerk of the Cheque. From hence to the lower part of the yard, which has been levelled from the solid rock, is a descent by a number of steps, which lead to two handsome buildings, lately erected as offices: in the northernmost is the *Joiners' Shop*, having a cupola rising from the centre. Directly in front of these buildings is the *Bason* and *Dock*, that were made in the reign of King William. The Bason is a large excavation, into which the water flows through an opening about seventy

Digitized by Google

venty feet wide: here all the boats belonging to the yard are kept, as well as the launches employed in moving ships. Within the Bason is the Dock, which is sufficiently capacious for a 74 gun ship; its length is 197 feet 3 inches; its width, 65 feet 10 inches; and its depth, 23 feet 1 inch. The Bason is bounded on each side by jetty heads, which are platforms projecting over the sea, supported by wooden pillars driven full of nails, to prevent the worms from perforating them. Vessels of all sizes lay alongside these jetties without grounding, and here all ships are brought to be fitted out. On the South Jetty is a landing-place, called the Master Attendant's Stairs, where all stores returned from ships are landed, and those to be sent them shipped off.

Adjoining to this jetty is the *Rigging House*, a handsome building, 480 feet long, and three stories high, forming one side of a quadrangle. This fabric is of lime-stone, with the coins and cornices of Portland stone. Within it, the rigging for the ships of war is kept in such a state of forwardness, as to be fit for use at a very short notice. Over the Rigging House is the *Sail Loft*, where all the sails are cut out, and made. The remaining three sides of the quadrangle are Store Houses, in which the various articles necessary to equip the fleets are kept under charge of a Storekeeper, who is answerable for all stores received and issued.

Advancing southward, is a *Slip* for hawling up and *graving* (cleaning) the bottoms of small vessels, such as sloops of war, cutters, &c. Beyond this is the *Camber*, a long canal, about seventy feet wide, terminating at the upper end in a bason, where boats lay; on the north side of which is the *Boat-House*, where boats are built, and repaired, and afterwards kept till wanted. Here, before the year 1768, was the bounds of the Yard; all hence to the southward is still called the "New Ground."

The *Blacksmiths' Shop* is situated south of the canal: it is a spacious building, about 210 feet square, and contains forty-eight forges. The largest anchors made here weigh five tons, and are worth 550l. each: they are made of iron bars, forged together, and are moved in and out of the fire by the aid of cranes. Those who are unaccustomed to places of this kind, feel strong sensations of horror on first

Digitized by Google

first entering: the clanking of the chains used to blow the bellows, the dingy countenances of the workmen, the immense fires, and, above all, the yellow glare thrown on every thing by the flames shining through the dismal columns of smoke that continually fill the building, form together a very terrific picture. The Smiths are allowed a certain quantity of small beer daily, in addition to their pay; this, when they are about anchor-work, is changed for strong. The quantity of coals burnt in the year 1802, was 876 chaldrons, and 23 bushels. The *Anchor-Wharf* fronts the Blacksmiths' shop. Some hundreds of anchors for ships of war are now stored here; all of them are painted, and supported in an upright position, to prevent rusting.

Near this wharf are three *Slips*, whereon large ships are built: on the first is the Union, of 98 guns, in a state of forwardness: two first rates, to be named the Caledonia, and Hibernia, are ordered to be laid down on the others; and some of their timbers are prepared. Adjoining the Slips is a *Boiling-House*, in which the planks that are to receive a particular curve, are boiled in water for a considerable time, and being afterwards applied *hot* to their places, are immediately fastened: without this process, it would be impossible to bring timber of such great magnitude as is wanted to the requisite shape.

Northward of the Slips is the *Mast-House*, and *Pond:* in the former, the different masts and yards are made. The main-mast of a first rate measures 119 feet 8 inches in length, and is 10 feet in circumference. They are composed of many pieces of *balk*, formed to fit into each other, then rounded, and pressed together with iron hoops, driven on red-hot. The Pond is a large piece of water, inclosed from the sea by a very strong wall, of at least 10 feet in thickness, and about 380 feet long; the top of which is laid flat with large flags of coarse granite. The water flows in through two openings of about forty feet wide, over which are light wooden bridges. An immense number of masts, yards, &c. are always kept in this pond, to prevent their cracking from exposure to the sun. Near the south end of the Mast-House is a small mount, generally called Bunker's Hill, on the summit of which is a watch-

Digitized by Google

a watch-house, and a battery of five cannon, nine pounders; four of iron, and one a beautiful brass piece, made at Paris. The prospect from this place is very extensive and interesting, including the Sound, St. Nicholas' Island, Mount Edgcumbe, the Dock-Yard, Hamoaze, and the Cornish side of the Tamar, as high as Saltash. Under the hill is a small powder magazine; and near it a Slip for building cutters and small vessels on.

Returning from this part more into the interior of the Yard, the *Rope-Houses* first engage the attention. These are two buildings of lime-stone, running parallel to each other, two stories high, with cellars beneath, and 1200 feet long. In the upper story twine is made, and the yarns prepared for the cables, which are *layed*, that is, twisted together, below. The largest cables that are made for shipping, are twenty-five inches in circumference, and one hundred fathoms long: they weigh 116 Cwt. 1 qr. and 16 lbs. and are worth 404l. 9s. 3d. In a cable of this size, there are 3240 yarns.*

Behind the Rope-Houses are the dwellings of the Master Rope-makers; and parallel with them, Store-houses for hemp, &c. The *Mould*, or *Model-Loft*, where the different parts of ships to be built are laid down according to plans sent from the Navy Board, is in front of the Store-house, and is the last building of importance in that part of the Yard, south of the Bason; to which we now return.

On

* A considerable improvement has lately been made in making rope, by a machine invented by Mr. Balfour, and adopted in this Yard. In rope made according to the old method, it was found that the yarns which were outside the strands were more tight, and consequently broke sooner, on force being applied, than those within; this must always be the case, when the yarns are tied together at both ends before twisting. To remedy this inconvenience, they are now tied together only at one end, that which is applied to the winch; at the other end, every yarn passes through a small hole, in an iron plate, and is wound separately on a reel: a weight is applied to keep them sufficiently tight for twisting, but not so as to prevent a single yarn from unreeling quicker than the others, on being more straightened: by this means every yarn accommodates its length to its situation.

Digitized by Google

On the North Jetty is a landing-place, called the North Stairs, where officers not on duty generally land. Near it is a house where pitch is kept continually boiling, to be applied to the bottoms and seams of ships. The *Double Dock*, which is the first of three very near each other for line of battle ships, is so denominated from its being sufficiently large to contain two ships at the same time; one a-head of the other, but so divided by gates, that though water is let into the outer division, the inner continues perfectly dry. The *Dock Gates*, by which the water is kept out of the docks, form, when closed, the segment of a circle, with its convex side towards the sea. They are made of timber, very strongly put together, and are hung on each side the mouth of the dock. As soon as a ship is taken into dock, which is always at high water, the gates are shut, and locked: the water within the dock then runs out through sluices made for the purpose, till the ebb tide has ceased: the sluices are then shut, and the water which may still remain is thrown out by engines on the plan of pumps, worked by the assistance of horses. The pressure of the sea against the gates is immense; consequently, from their form, they are always kept tight together. When a ship is to be taken out of dock, the sluices are opened, and the water flows in till its height is equal both withinside and without: the gates are then opened with ease, though scarcely any force could otherwise accomplish it. The ships are hove in and out by means of hawsers and capstans, and always *ground* in the dock on wooden blocks placed for that purpose.

A new method has lately been invented to get at the keels of ships to repair them, by a Mr. Sepping, one of the builder's assistants at this port. Formerly, when a ship's keel was damaged, she was obliged to be *lifted:* to do this, shores were placed very thick under her bottom, beneath each of which wooden wedges were driven by large sledge hammers: to lift a line of battle ship 400 men were required, as all the wedges were to be struck at the same instant of time. This occasioned not only a considerable waste of labor, but also the loss of all the wedges, and of a great part of the shores. By Mr. Sepping's plan, on the upper surface of each

Digitized by Google

block used by the old method for the ship to ground on, is fastened an iron plate, on which two cast iron wedges are laid; each of them, three feet six inches long; twelve inches wide; four inches and a half thick, at the thickest ends, and one inch and three quarters at the thinnest. These are so placed, that the thick ends are towards the sides of the dock, the thinnest meeting the centre of the block. By this method of placing them, there is a considerable hollow in the middle, which is filled up to a level by a block of wood, five feet long, and one foot, one inch thick, made exactly to fit it, and which is covered with iron plates where it comes into contact with the wedges: on this the ship grounds, and is supported in an upright position (as all ships in dock are) by wooden shores. When any part of the keel is discovered to be defective, the wedges under that part are knocked out, which from their shape is very easily done: the blocks then become loose, and are removed till the part is repaired, when they are returned to their places, and the wedges driven in till they meet. Thirty men are sufficient to perform these operations. Two docks have been fitted up on this plan in this yard; and the whole expence of wedges, &c. for each, amounted to a very few pounds more than raising one ship by the old method. What number of years the iron wedges will last, it is impossible to say; yet the advantage in this respect, is, perhaps, less than that which arises from the saving of labor, which, in time of war, is a very material object.*

The second Dock, called the *Union*, or *North Dock*, is 239 feet 4 inches long; 86 feet 7 inches wide; and 26 feet 10 inches deep. This was made in the year 1762; and is faced with Portland stone, having blocks of granite to support the shores. The *New Union*, or *North New Dock*, 259 feet 9 inches long; 85 feet 3 inches wide; and 27 feet 8 inches deep; was made in the year 1789, and is on the

* Mr. Sepping, the ingenious contriver of the above mode, discovered, a few years ago, a new method of hanging the rudders of ships, which succeeded perfectly; and for which he received the thanks of the Navy Board. It would be prudent in every Government to encourage inventions of this description by appropriate bounties. Whatever is a national benefit should be rewarded with the highest liberality.

Digitized by Google

the same plan: both these Docks, and all the new part of the Yard, were built by the late able architect, Mr. Barlby. Near the head of the latter dock is a burning-place for old copper, that has been removed from ships' bottoms at the time of repairing them; it is then covered with verdigrease, weeds, muscles, &c. all which must be cleared away before the metal can be applied to any other purpose. To effect this, it is laid on iron bars, raised about a foot from the ground, and covered with chips and shavings, which are afterwards set fire to: the smoke is excessively nauseous, and deleterious in the extreme; yet, when the wind blows from the west, which is mostly the case here, the town is filled with it. After a certain time, the copper is taken out of the fire, and beaten with mallets to remove the dirt, &c. This refuse was formerly thrown away as useless; but it having been discovered lately, that it contains a large quantity of metallic particles, it is now sold at 90l. per ton. Further northward, are the Plumber's, Brazier's, and Armourer's Shops, and the Bricklayer's and Stonecutter's Yards. Behind all this side of the Yard, the rock, having never been levelled, rises very high, and irregular: on it are a few sheds and storehouses.

Every person belonging to the Dock-Yard is under the command of the Commissioner, from whom all orders are received; and who has it in his power to discharge any workman for neglect of duty: and even the office of the Military Guard receives the watch-word from him. His salary is 1000l. per annum. The artificers frequently work "*two for one;*" that is, they execute the work of two days in the number of hours allowed for one: to do this, they have tasks measured out by their different officers. In war-time, they generally work "*three for one.*" The chips which arise from converting timber to the requisite shapes, were formerly carried out of the Yard, as a perquisite by the workmen, in bundles; to form which, not only a large quantity of good timber was frequently destroyed, but articles of more value were secreted in them. This occasioned an order that no more should be taken from the yard; and Government allows each man sixpence a day

in

Digitized by Google

in lieu of them. The chips are now sold by auction once every fortnight."*

"The levelling of so large a space of ground as the Dock-Yard occupies, must have been attended with prodigious labor, particularly the *Gun Wharf*, which is hewn out of some schistose rocks, to the depth of thirty feet, or more."† The Gun Wharf is separated from the Dock-Yard by North Corner-Street: it was begun either in the year 1718 or 1719, and completed about 1725. The buildings are in general good, but very heavy, and in the Dutch style: they were projected by the late Sir John Vanburgh, who was then attached to the Ordnance department. The quantity of ground within the walls is four acres, and three quarters: it is held on the same terms as the Dock-Yard; at an annual rent of 11l. 17s. 6d. equal to 50s. per acre, and a fine of 35l. 12s. 6d. (equal to three years rent,) on every seven years renewal. Here are two principal storehouses, of three stories high, for muskets, pistols, grape-shot, and other small stores; a number of sheds for gun-carriages, &c. and a powder magazine, with a cooperage detached; but which, since the erection of the magazines at Keyham Point, have been used for storehouses. The buildings, though in general well adapted to the purposes designed, are by no means adequate to the housing of the different ordnance stores, from the ships dismantled at this port, after a war. The Dock-Yard, as well as the Gun Wharf, is rated to the poor, and pays house and window-tax for the dwellings; but neither tithes, church-rates, nor land-tax.

The diversity of employments, ingenuity, and manual activity, exhibited in the various departments of a Dock-Yard, present a very

* The method of selling is, we believe, peculiar to the King's Yards: the lots, instead of being put up at a low price, and sold by increasing the biddings, are put up at a sum considerably above their value, which the auctioneer gradually decreases, till some person thinking the price a fair one, says, "*Mine*," and the lot is immediately knocked down to him.

† "This slate is of a very singular species, and resembles in color the Siberian jasper, being composed of alternate green and purple *laminæ* running in right lines. A very hard reddish lime-stone prevails on the southern side of the yards." *Maton's Observations on the Western Counties.*

Digitized by Google

very interesting spectacle to those who have not been accustomed to appreciate the effects of human industry on a grand scale. Perhaps, no sight is better calculated to enable a comprehensive mind to form a proper estimate of the powers of continued labor, than "the gradual growth of a few rude pieces of timber, into the majestic wonderful structure that encounters the winds and waves;" and forms the most complete security against invasion that Great Britain can possess.

In times of peace, a very considerable part of the English Navy are laid up in ordinary* in *Hamoaze*, and constitute, by their number and disposition, a very interesting spectacle. This bay is about four miles in length, and, in general, about half a mile broad, with a bottom of mud; its greatest depth, at high water, is between eighteen and twenty fathoms: at low water, the depth is about fifteen fathoms. Below the Creek, which runs up to Weston Mills, is the *Powder Magazine*, consisting of several detached limestone buildings, erected with every precaution, to prevent accidents by fire or lightning. Further to the southward, is Morice Town, from which place to Cremill Ferry, the shore is occupied by the Gun Wharf and Dock-Yard. Opposite Morice Town is the village

* Ships laid up in *ordinary*, are stript of all their rigging, which, with the stores, guns, &c. is taken on shore: in fact, every thing is taken out of them; and the men and officers are all paid off, except the boatswain, gunner, carpenter, and cook, (who always remain to take care of the ship,) and six ordinary seamen. The ships are moored by large chains of iron, 60 fathoms long, consisting of 120 links, and having at each end a large anchor. The chains are stretched across the harbour, and the anchors sunk in the mud. In the middle of each chain is a large iron ring, and a swivel, to which are attached two thick cables, called bridles, sufficiently long to be taken on board the ship to be moored. These bridles, when not in use, are constantly sunk; a small cable being fastened to them, which is brought up to a buoy on the surface of the water, and there made fast. When wanted, the ends are easily hawled up by means of the buoy rope, and are then passed one through each of the ship's hawse-holes, and fastened on board. By the bridles being fastened to the same swivel, the ships swing easily with the tide, which runs amazingly strong, especially the ebb, with the wind at north: at these times no boat can make head against it. In Hamoaze are ninety-two of these moorings, all capable of holding line of battle ships.

Digitized by Google

village of Torpoint; and adjoining it, the *Ballast Pond.* This is a large square pond, surrounded by a wall, into which the water flows through an opening spacious enough to admit the barges, which bring and deposit here the shingle ballast (pebbles) that is taken out of the ships when commissioned; as they then, from the quantity of stores, &c. on board, require much less ballast than when in a state of ordinary. The tide flowing into the Pond, washes off, and carries away, all impurities from the ballast, which again renders it fit to be put on board ships in a state of ordinary. More to the south, is Millbrook Lake, on the north bank of which is the Royal Brewhouse, called *South-Down*, from whence the King's ships, of every description, are supplied with beer. The entrance into Hamoaze from the Sound is very intricate and dangerous; and the aid of a pilot is always necessary.

The town of Dock contains one Church, the Chapels of St. Aubyn and St. John, and several Meeting-houses for sects of different religious denominations. The Church originally consisted only of one aisle, and a tower; but the increase of the inhabitants was the occasion of a second aisle being erected some years after the beginning of the last century; and about 1750, a third aisle was built, from the same cause. By these additions, what was at first the breadth, has become the length, of the building. At the west end is a spacious gallery. The living is considered as the best in the diocese of Exeter; the patronage is in the lord of the manor. St. Aubyn's Chapel was erected by subscription in the years 1771 and 1772: it is a plain building, with three aisles, and a neat octagonal spire, and a portico. St. John's Chapel was also built by subscription, and was finished in the year 1799. The internal part, consisting of three aisles, and an elliptical gallery, is remarkably neat, and contains a good organ; but the appearance of the exterior is in every thing the reverse of elegance; and were it not for its size, and a diminutive square tower, that scarcely outtops its cumbrous roof, this building might be easily mistaken for the tithe-barn of the parish. The presentation is vested in the rector of the parish; but the subscribers had the first appointment. The stipulated salary of the curate is only 60l. per annum; yet

Digitized by Google

this is increased, by the voluntary subscriptions of the proprietors, to 200l. if the person appointed by the rector meets with their approval.

The market at this place, though not chartered, is held three times a week. The market-place has been lately almost rebuilt, with considerable improvements, by Sir John St. Aubyn; and when completed, will, with respect to extent and accommodations, be equal, if not superior, to any in the west of England. It is well supplied with every necessary of life, corn only excepted; but particularly with fish. Some years ago, probably not more than forty, the site of the market-place was a pond of stagnant water; previous to the filling up of which, the provisions were sold under temporary wood-shambles, near the Dock-Yard gates. It is now in the lord's demesne, and is let annually at Midsummer: some idea of its importance may be formed, from the circumstance of the tolls being rented, or farmed, for the present year, at upwards of 1000l.

The Poor House is an extensive building, occupying about an acre of ground, and capable of containing 300 persons; and within three of that number at present reside in it: their only employment is picking oakum for the Dock-Yard. This establishment is under the immediate direction of a governor and matron, who are appointed by, and subject to the controul of, the commissioners under the act for paving and lighting the town, and other purposes. A good Infirmary, a Council-Room for the Magistrates, and some other buildings for the separate accommodation of women and children, have been erected within the precincts belonging to the Poor House. The institution for the relief of distressed Lying-in-women, was commenced, and is entirely maintained, by the subscriptions of females.

The number of inhabitants of Dock, according to the late Parliamentary survey, was 23,747; but it has been thought that the real number greatly exceeded that report, as the military, and persons belonging to the navy, who occasionally reside on board the ships in Hamoaze, were not included. The police is under the superintendence of the County Magistrates; three of whom reside

Digitized by Google

beside in the town and its neighbourhood, and dedicate each one day in the week to the public business; besides holding a regular quarter sessions; and when circumstances require it, an occasional sessions. The number of inns during the latter years of the war, exceeded 200; but the magistrates have since judiciously limited the number to 100. By a recent regulation, every inn-keeper is obliged to have a lamp over his door; and every tavern-keeper, two lamps: these are the only lamps in the town.

The inhabitants of Dock were formerly considerably distressed for good water, but this inconvenience has been lately removed, though not without much difficulty. As the proceedings were regarded as the most important that have agitated the town of late years, we shall mention the particulars at some length.

Early in the American War, the troops then in garrison at Dock, being in want of water, application was made by Colonel Dixon, the commanding engineer at Plymouth, to the Corporation of Plymouth, for a participation of the advantages derived by its inhabitants from the stream conveyed to that borough by the renowned Sir Francis Drake; offering, at the same time, any reasonable compensation. The Corporation, from whatever motives, refused; and intimated, that their Leat* would not convey sufficient water for both places. The troops were therefore supplied from reservoirs of rain-water, soon after formed in the squares of barracks; and the inhabitants, as usual, with rain-water from their houses, and from the few springs and streams in the neighbourhood. The failure of the application made by Colonel Dixon, induced that officer to consider of some other mode of bringing water to Dock, and, under his direction, levels were taken from the river Walk, in the parish of Walkampton, about ten miles northward. The ground being found favorable, an estimate of expence was made, amounting to about 18,000l. and a plan proposed to the Ordnance Board; but this also failed of success. Soon afterwards Messrs. Jones and Grey, then of Bristol, presented a plan to Government, which at first seemed likely

* *Leat* is the provincial term for a small stream, or rivulet.

Digitized by Google

to succeed; Government having directed the Naval and Ordnance departments at Plymouth to report on the utility of the measure, which not only included the supply of the troops with water, but likewise of the King's shipping from the front of the Yard. Favorable reports were transmitted from each department: but at length this proposition also fell to the ground. In the year 1789, another plan was in contemplation, under the assumed auspices of Mr. Thomas Bryer and Company. This also *then* failed of success; but in 1792, Mr. Bryer, in conjunction with Messrs. Jones and Grey, and others, submitted a plan to the inhabitants of Dock, as well as to Government, for supplying the inhabitants with water on the same terms as those of Plymouth, and the Government's departments at a stipulated price. This proposition appearing likely to succeed, aroused the attention of the Corporation of Plymouth, who, probably jealous of the rapidly increasing consequence of the town of Dock, threw every obstacle in its way. The Leat, which they before declared to be incompetent to the supply of Plymouth, and of the troops at Dock, was now large enough, or might be made so, to supply not only the troops, but likewise the inhabitants, and Naval Arsenals, there. The inhabitants of Dock, however, were sufficiently awakened to their own interest, to reject the propositions made from Plymouth, and determined to support the plan suggested by Bryer and Company; and a bill for permission to carry it into execution was passed by the Legislature; but not without considerable opposition from the Corporation of Plymouth. Under this act the scheme has been executed; and the inhabitants are now supplied with salubrious water on reasonable terms: the sum paid for its use by the Naval Department is about 500l. and by the Ordnance Board, 200l. per annum.

On the southern side of the town, immediately above the sea shore, is Richmond Walk, an extremely pleasant promenade, commanding a fine view of Mount Edgcumbe, &c. This walk was projected and raised under the direction of the Duke of Richmond, when Master-General of the Ordnance, in consequence of the discontent excited by his having built the boundary wall which surrounds the town, and thereby excluded the inhabitants from

Digitized by Google

from walking round the lines, a privilege they had before enjoyed. The Theatre in this town is tolerably spacious, and the internal decorations neat. At the Fountains Tavern is an elegant assembly room, where assemblies are held by subscription, each subscriber paying half-a-guinea for the season.

The fluctuations occasioned by the alternate operation of peace and war, have hitherto prevented the society of this place from acquiring any permanent feature. Under the influence of these opposite causes, it exhibits a surprising contrast. Peace is almost annihilation to it. Trade then stagnates; speculation expires; numerous shops and houses are shut up; the streets are silent; and inactivity and despondency pervade every one. War instantly changes the scene. A new spirit is suddenly diffused, and the greatest ardor and industry prevail. The frequent equipment and return of fleets occasions the expenditure of immense sums of money; and multitudes of speculators resort hither from all parts of the kingdom to participate in the spoil. Shops of every description open in endless succession; not a house is vacant; clamor and bustle pervade the streets; and at length the whole place exhibits the appearance of a fair.

The inhabitants are chiefly composed of Artificers in the Dock-Yard and Gun-Wharf, Tradesmen and Mechanics, Retail Dealers and *Wholesale* Dealers, (though in a contracted way,) and Officers and others belonging to the navy. There is scarcely a person of fortune who is not engaged in some kind of business or profession. Literature and the fine arts meet little encouragement. There is but one Book Club in the town at present; nor is there any other association or institution of a literary or scientific nature; though several Circulating Libraries have been opened, to the support of which the fair sex chiefly contribute. The manners and customs must be necessarily unsettled, from the frequent influx of the navy and army, and of strangers during war; and a spirit of unsociability prevails generally throughout the place, for which two causes may be assigned; an overstrained competition in almost every kind of business and trade, and a great diversity of opinion

Digitized by Google

in religious matters. The amusements of the inhabitants are very few. Their principal gratification seems to arise from an inordinate love of dress, in which almost all indulge with equal excess; and a no less inordinate devotion to cards, which occupy whole evenings in succession. There is a very good assembly room, at which an assembly is held, every fortnight during six months of the year, by subscription. It appears, however, to be confined to a few families in the town, and the naval and military officers. The Theatre is crowded in war, principally by the navy: in peace it can scarcely support a company of performers.

This place does not appear to have given birth to any character of literary celebrity: in fact, it is not adapted to the cultivation of intellect. Wealth is the universal idol, and science scarcely vegetates. There are no manufactories in this town; nor till within a few years has there been any thing like commercial speculation. Several of the principal inhabitants are now, however, engaged in shipping concerns, under the denomination of the Dock Union Company, and employ several vessels in the coasting trade. They have also converted a small quay and landing-place at Mutton Cove (the ferry to Mount Edgcumbe) into an excellent and commodious quay and bason, both for their vessels, and the general accommodation of boats landing there from the ships in Hamoaze, the Sound, &c. About ten years since a Bank was established, which has given great facility to the trade and commerce of the town. These circumstances, added to the increased wealth of the inhabitants from the late war, will considerably alter the spiri and character of the place.

During the war, the Merchants and Wholesale Dealers in London, and other places, supplied persons here with goods on credit, to whom, perhaps, they were entire strangers, and who frequently began their career of business without a shilling. Some of these, in a few months after a rapid sale, absconded with the money; others, from ignorance of the business they engaged in, and extravagant living, soon obtained a residence in the Sheriffs' ward of Exeter. Their places, however, were immediately filled by others of the same description, and goods supplied them in the same way with

Digitized by Google

with equal eagerness. The speculations of those who furnished them must, therefore, have been, on the whole, advantageous. Most of the articles, indeed, were manufactured for the occasion, and the prices were exorbitant. The prodigality and credulity of seamen have been long proverbial; but the naval heroes of the present day seem in these respects to have out-done all their predecessors. The inconsistent and thoughtless profusion of this singular class of men, their frolics, their credulity, and the various impositions practised on them, would altogether form a detail the most curious and incredible. Extravagance, however, was not confined to them. The artificers in the Dock-Yard, who, during war, double, and frequently treble, their wages, and, indeed, many of the inhabitants, who derived any benefit from this source of calamity to the world, evinced a similar disposition. Prodigality seemed to be the order of the day. This superfluity, however, was principally lavished in personal decoration, and luxurious living. Distinctions in dress and modes of living became at length almost extinct.

Amidst the general dissipation and rage for worldly aggrandisement, a religious disposition was every where prevalent. Churches, chapels, and meetings, were crowded with auditors. The latter not only on Sundays, but many evenings in the week. Besides public places of worship, parties of the pious assembled at each other's houses, and embryo preachers here first practised the rudiments of their future calling! These spiritual pastors were principally uneducated mechanics and artificers in the Dock-Yard and town. Never, perhaps, did moralist survey a more incongruous spectacle than this place afforded. The most open and undisguised profaneness, and the most rigid sanctity, seemed equally predominant. On one hand were heard the revels of debauchery and drunkenness; and on the other, the praises and prayers of devotional congregations! The sanctuaries of religion were surrounded by the temples of profligacy. Prostitution walked the streets shameless and unabashed: levity and extravagance were universally diffused. Extortion prevailed, as if by mutual concurrence;

Digitized by Google

currence; most seeming desirous rather to participate in its advantages, than to oppose its influence.

A disinterested observer would have thought that the whole desideratum of life was confined to the acquisition of wealth, licentious gratifications, and ostentatious dress; and that its duties were comprised in a regular attendance on places of worship, and the belief of certain undefinable notions, and extravagant conceits, which neither improve the understanding, correct the manners, or amend the heart. All the refinements of intellect, all the treasures of mental wealth, were despised. That such a general acquiescence in dissipation and venality should exist under the apparent auspices of *Religion*, is a circumstance peculiar, perhaps, to modern times.*

In the year 1790, an act of Parliament was obtained for the establishment of a new Ferry across the Tamar, from a spot to the northward of the Gun Wharf. This passage was completed about the year 1796; and greatly tends to the accommodation of travellers frequenting the Cornish side of the river. Soon after its completion, on the Stoke Damerel, or Devon side, a house carpenter and builder, of the name of Crossing, began to build on a spot nearly adjoining on the west with the ferry; and on the south, with the glacis of the lines surrounding Dock. The convenient situation of the houses thus commenced, and the augmented population of Dock, immediately occasioned the erection of additional buildings; and the place is now increasing under the appellation of MORICE TOWN; it having been so called, to perpetuate the memory of Sir William Morice, from whom the manor, as already stated, descended to the late Sir John St. Aubyn. It now consists of two streets, running parallel with each other, and part of a third. To the westward a Canal has also been formed, 800 feet in length, and 90 broad, on each side of which spacious wharfs and store-houses are now building. A Beer Brewery, called the Tamar

* For the above miscellaneous remarks on the present and recent state of society in Dock, we are indebted to a very intelligent inhabitant, whose habits of observation, and long residence in the town, have rendered him fully competent to describe its manners.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

MOUNT EDGCUMBE,
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

Tamar Brewery, the most complete and extensive in the west of England, has also been established near the Canal; and new canals and wharfs are now in contemplation.

At STOKE, a very pleasantly situated village, about half a mile from Dock, are the *Military Hospitals*, which were planned under the direction of the Duke of Richmond, but erected under the superintendence of the Barrack Board, during the late war. The occasion of their having been built, was a fatal malady that broke out on board a fleet of transports detained in the port by adverse winds, in the early part of the war. The transports were full of troops; and as the contagion spread, great numbers of them died, partly through the want of requisite accommodation when brought on shore. The present buildings were then projected; and are supposed to be well adapted for the purposes for which they were intended.

The delightful peninsula of MOUNT EDGCUMBE, the seat of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, is approached by crossing the water at the place called *Cremill Ferry*. This demesne possesses many beautiful and pleasing scenes, and presents, from the high grounds, a singular variety of interesting and grand prospects. The mansion was completed in the reign of Queen Mary, and is built of a red lime-stone, obtained near the spot, covered with rough stucco: the door and window cases are of moor-stone. Its form is nearly square, with a tower at each corner, and battlements at the top. The towers were originally round; but about forty years ago were pulled down, and rebuilt in an octagon shape, and of a larger size. The Hall occupies the centre of the house, and rises to the height of the second story. This room was newly fitted up by Richard, the first Lord Edgcumbe, in the Grecian style of architecture, and is handsomely decorated with Doric columns and pilasters of blue marble, surmounted by an Ionic entablature. The chimney-pieces, the tables, and several *terms* supporting busts, are of Cornish granite, and exhibit very beautiful specimens of all the varieties of that stone which the county produces. At each end of the hall is a gallery, and in one of them an excellent organ, lately erected. About fourteen years ago, a handsome

room

Digitized by Google

room was added to the house for a library, in which is a good collection of books.

The only paintings which decorate the apartments are portraits: amongst them are those of the first EARL OF SANDWICH, (blown up in the battle of Solebay;) the COUNTESS OF SANDWICH, his wife; LADY ANNE, their daughter; and her husband, SIR RICHARD EDGCUMBE, K. B. all painted by Sir Peter Lely: RICHARD, created Lord Edgcumbe; (son of the above named Sir Richard;) his two sons, RICHARD, second Lord Edgcumbe; and GEORGE, created Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, (the late possessor;) and EMMA, Countess of Mount Edgcumbe, his surviving widow: the last four were painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Here is also a curious old portrait of MARGARET EDGCUMBE, Maid of Honor to Queen Elizabeth, who married Sir Edward Denny, Groom of her Majesty's Privy Chamber. This lady is represented in widow's mourning; and the picture was painted (according to the inscription upon it) in the sixty-eighth year of her age, and the forty-eighth of her widowhood. Besides these portraits belonging to the family, there are two fine heads of CHARLES THE FIRST, and of the DUKE OF MONMOUTH; and full-lengths of CHARLES THE SECOND, JAMES THE SECOND, PRINCE RUPERT, and WILLIAM THE THIRD.

The house is situated on the side of a beautifully wooded hill, in a spacious lawn, bounded with rich old timber, growing down to the water's edge. From the windows of its northern and eastern fronts, it commands extensive and finely variegated prospects of the Hamoaze, with its shipping; the river Tamar; Plymouth Sound, with the Island of St. Nicholas; the town of Plymouth, and its Citadel; Stonehouse, Plymouth Dock, and the Dock Yard; and of all the surrounding country, bounded by elevated hills, of which the most prominent are Hengist Down, Brent Tor, and many other Tors on Dartmoor.

The grounds occupy an area of about three miles in circumference, which includes the whole of the peninsula formed by the Tamar and its branches on one side, and the open sea on the other, and connected by a very narrow isthmus to the main land.

The

Digitized by Google

The deer park is on the summit of the hill, and commands not only the views described from the house, but also an extensive prospect southward, over Cawsand Bay and the Channel. The Edystone Light-house is distinctly seen in the horizon. The parish-church of Maker, the tower of which is used by Government as a signal-house in time of war, stands on the highest ground, at the principal western entrance of the park. The views from this point are almost unparalleled for their variety and picturesque grandeur.

The southern side of the hill, towards the sea, is an abrupt rocky cliff, planted with every sort of evergreen tree and shrub, among which the arbutus, the laurestinus, the Portugal laurel, and the myrtle, thrive with great luxuriance, and grow to an extraordinary size. A terrace, midway up the hill, runs through the midst of these plantations; and walks, cut in zigzag directions down the rocks, as low as they are practicable, conduct to numerous points of view, affording extraordinary variety of wild and romantic scenery, (which, from the profusion of evergreens flourishing through the winter, is equally beautiful at all seasons of the year,) and forming a striking contrast with the highly polished appearance of the northern side.

The flower-garden is at the bottom of the lawn, in front of the house, close to the water's edge, at the narrowest part of the channel, through which is the entrance into the harbour, so that ships of war of the first rate pass close to its boundary. In it, and at the point forming one side of that entrance, stands a block-house, built for the defence of the port at the time of the expected invasion by the Spanish armada, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and below it is a saluting battery of twenty-one guns, which was completely remounted three years ago with larger cannon. The retired parts of this inclosure contain a French and an English flower-garden, with a green-house, and other buildings; also a magnificent orangery. The latter has a plain, but well-proportioned, Doric front, 100 feet in length, designed by the late Lord Camelford: in the centre of the area before it, a marble fountain has lately been erected in the Italian style. Near the water's edge is a neat

Digitized by Google

a neat Doric alcove, inscribed with the following lines from Thomson:

"————On either hand,
Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts
Shot up their spires; the bellying sheet between
Possess'd the breezy void; the sooty hulk
Steer'd sluggish on; the splendid bark along
Row'd regular, to harmony; around
The boat, light skimming stretch'd its oary wings,
While deep the various voice of fervent toil,
From bank to bank, increased; whence ribb'd with oak,
To bear the British thunder black and bold,
The rolling vessels rush'd into the main."

The orange trees are numerous; several of them are of unusual size and beauty, inferior to few in England. Of other trees growing in these gardens, the most remarkable are magnolias, of extraordinary height; the Virginia, or red cedar; the ilex, or evergreen oak; and the cork tree. The woods in the other parts of the grounds abound with fine oak, chesnut, beech, elm, and lime, oriental and occidental planes, tulip trees, Carolina poplars, American and other oaks, cedar of Lebanus, and every sort of fir and pine. Every part of the place is converted into pleasure ground, and intersected with a great variety of walks; the whole has been laid out, at different times, by the proprietors themselves, no landscape gardener having ever been employed.

The late Earl of Mount Edgcumbe made very great alterations, both for ornament and convenience, by planting, and other material improvements; particularly by removing, to a distant part of the grounds, the kitchen garden, which occupied a beautiful valley near the house, since converted into a lawn, which is surrounded by a lofty theatre of fine wood, open at the end to a partial view of the mouth of the Tamar, and Sound, with their opposite banks.

The present Earl has just completed a considerable addition to the drive round the place, by continuing it to the western side of the hill, through woods of younger growth, and round the farm grounds; whence the harbour and river are seen in new points of view, and extensive prospects opened over part of Cornwall, and the shore of Whitsand Bay.

Digitized by Google

The estate of Mount Edgcumbe became the property of the family whose name it now bears, about the beginning of the sixteenth century, by the marriage of Sir Piers Edgcumbe, with Jane, daughter and heiress of Stephen Durnford, Esq. in right of whom he inherited the town of East Stonehouse on one side of the river, and the village of West Stonehouse, (now destroyed,) on the other; where his son, Sir Richard Edgcumbe, afterwards built Mount Edgcumbe House, and transferred thither his residence from the old mansion of Cotehele, which his ancestors had inhabited from the time of Edward the Third. At that period a younger brother of the family of Edgcumbe, of Edgcumbe, near Tavistock, (which place is still occupied by the lineal descendant of the elder branch,) became possessed of it by marrying the last heiress of the family of Cotehele.

EDYSTONE ROCKS AND LIGHT-HOUSE.

THE EDYSTONE ROCKS are a congeries of irregular rocks, situated about twelve miles and a half from the middle of Plymouth Sound, and so exposed to the heavy swells from the Bay of Biscay and the Atlantic Ocean, that the waves frequently break over them with incredible fury. These Rocks are a lamellar kind of granite, and are supposed to have obtained their present appellation from the great variety of contrary *sets* of the tide,* or current, as

* The time of the tides here, that is of high and low water, is nearly the same as at Plymouth: viz. 5½ at full and change of the moon. The common spring tides flow from sixteen to eighteen feet; and the equinoctial tides from eighteen to twenty feet: neap tides flow from eleven to twelve feet, and sometimes to fourteen feet. The proper time of sailing to the Edystone from Plymouth, is at high water; and the most favorable wind is at north-west, as that wind not only answers for the passage both ways, but being a *land-wind*, it must blow very hard before it raises any great sea at the Edystone Rocks. The landing-place is on the east side of the *House-Rock:* that reef stretching north and south, becomes a pier to break off the sea from half ebb to low water, and from thence till half flow; an interval of time, which, in fine weather, is the best for visiting the Light-house. The most unfavorable wind for either going or returning, or for any other purpose, is at the south-west, it being generally accompanied by a heavy sea.

Digitized by Google

as it flows among them from the different points of the British Channel.

The particular form and position of the Edystone Rocks is a circumstance that greatly tends to augment the force and height of the seas which break over them; and, previous to the erection of the Light-house, doomed many vessels to inevitable destruction. They not only stretch across the Channel, in a north and south direction, to the length of about one hundred fathoms, but also lie in a sloping manner towards the south-west quarter; and this sloping, or *stiving*, of the Rocks, as it is technically termed, does not cease at low water, but still goes on progressively, so that at fifty fathoms westward, there is twelve fathoms water; nor do they terminate altogether at the distance of a mile. From this configuration, it happens that the seas coming uncontrolled from the deep water, and rather suddenly at *last*, though gradually meeting the slope of the rocky bottom, are swelled to that degree in storms, and hard gales of wind, as to break upon the rocks with the most dreadful violence. Nor is the effect of this slope less sensible, in proportion, in moderate weather; and it is frequently very troublesome even in calm weather; for the libration of the water, caused in the Bay of Biscay, in hard gales at south-west, continues in those deep waters for many days, though succeeded by a calm; so that when the sea is to all appearance smooth and even, and its surface unruffled by the slightest breeze, yet those librations, which are called the ground swell, still continuing, and meeting the slope of these Rocks, the sea breaks upon them in a frightful manner.

The many fatal accidents which happened from ships running upon these dreadful rocks, either in the night, at high water, or in bad weather, occasioned a strong desire of contriving some method of warning mariners of their danger; and at length, in the year 1696, notwithstanding the insuperable difficulties which seemed to attend the plan, Mr. Henry Winstanley,* of Littlebury, in Essex,

* This gentleman was the Merlin of his day, and "had distinguished himself in a certain branch of mechanics, the tendency of which is to excite wonder and

Essex, engaged to erect a Light-house on the spot; and being furnished with the necessary powers from the Trinity House, under the authority of a statute made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for "setting up marks and signs for the sea," he immediately commenced his undertaking.

The building erected by Mr. Winstanley, seems to have been partly wood, and partly stone; but, from the difficulty and danger of conveying materials to the rock, and getting backwards and forwards from the shore, it was not completed till the expiration of somewhat more than three years. "The fourth year," says this gentleman, "finding in the winter the effects the sea had upon the house, and *burying* the lantern at times, although more than sixty feet high, early in the spring, I encompassed the aforesaid building with a new work, four feet thickness from the foundation, making all solid near twenty feet high; and taking down the upper part of the first building, and enlarging every part in its proportion, I raised it forty feet higher than it was at first, and made it as it now appears; and yet the sea, in time of storms, flies in appearance, *one hundred feet above the vane;* and at times doth cover half the side of the house, and the lantern, as if it were under water."*

The Light-house, thus finished, had more the resemblance of a Chinese Pagoda, than of a structure intended to resist the impetuous shock of overwhelming seas; and it was commonly said, that in time of hard weather, such was the height of the waves, that it was very possible for a *six-oared* boat to be lifted up upon a billow,

and surprise. He had at his house, at Littlebury, a set of contrivances, such as the following:—Being taken into one particular room of his house, and there observing an old slipper carelessly lying in the middle of the floor, if, as was natural, you gave it a kick with your foot, up started a ghost before you: if you sat down in a certain chair, a couple of arms would immediately clasp you in, so as to render it impossible for you to disentangle yourself, till your attendant set you at liberty: and if you sat down in a certain arbour by the side of a canal, you was forthwith sent out afloat into the middle, from whence it was impossible for you to escape till the manager returned you to your former place." *Smeaton's Narrative of the Construction of the Edystone Light-house.*

* See "Narrative of the Building," &c. by Mr. Winstanley, as re-published by Smeaton from a Perspective Elevation of the original Light-house.

Digitized by Google

ignorance of its first principle, judgment; for whatever deviates from propriety, is erroneous, and at best insipid."*

Mr. Rudyerd's building was commenced in July, 1706; and sufficiently completed to exhibit a light on the twenty-eighth of July, 1708: the succeeding year it was entirely finished. It must be observed, that the surface of the House Rock, which is the largest of the group, slopes, or *stives*, from east to west, about eleven feet in twenty-four, which was the diameter of the foundation of the second Light-house; and is within four feet of the extent of the greatest circle that can be made upon the rock. This inclined surface of the rock was divided by Mr. Rudyerd into seven ascents, or stages, on which the base of the structure was fixed by iron bolts, or cramps; each bolt weighing from 200 to 500 pounds, according to their different lengths and substances. One end of the iron bolts being fastened into cavities made in the Rock, a course of squared oak balks was laid *lengthwise* upon the lowest stage, and of a size to reach up to the level of the stage above: upon these a set of short balks were laid *crossways*, and upon the next stage, a set *compoundedly:* the fourth set was placed lengthwise, the fifth, crossways, &c. till a basement of solid wood was raised, two complete courses higher than the highest part of the Rock; the whole being fitted together, and to the Rock, as closely as possible; and the balks in all their intersections with each other, trenailed together. They were also fastened to the iron cramps by large bearded spikes, or jag-bolts, which were driven, through holes made in the former, into the solid timber.

" In this way, by building *stratum super stratum* of solid squared oak timber, which was of the best quality, (and said to have been winter felled,) Mr. Rudyerd was enabled to make a solid basement of what height he thought proper: but, in addition to the above method, he judiciously laid hold of the great principle in engineering, that WEIGHT *is the most naturally and effectually resisted by* WEIGHT. He considered that all his joints were

* Smeaton. Mr. Rudyerd, like his predecessor, published a Narrative of the building of his Light-house, on a Print representing it; with the motto, *Furet natura coercet ars.*

Digitized by Google

were pervious to water; and that though a great part of the ground-joint of the whole mass was in contact with the Rock, yet many parts of it could not be accurately so; and therefore, that whatever parts of the ground-joint were not in perfect contact, so as to exclude the water therefrom, though the separation was only by the thickness of a piece of post-paper, yet, if capable of receiving water in a fluid state, the action of a wave upon it edgewise, would, upon the principles of hydrostatics, produce an equal effect towards lifting it upwards, as if it acted immediately upon so much *area* of the bottom as was not in close contact. The more effectually, therefore, to counteract every tendency of the seas to move the building in any direction, he determined to interpose strata of Cornish moor-stone between those of wood; and accordingly having raised his foundation solid, two courses above the top of the Rock, he then put on five courses, of one foot thick each, of the moor-stone. These courses were so well jointed as the workmen of the country could do it; to introduce as much weight as possible into the space to contain them: they were, however, laid without any cement; but it appears that iron cramps were used to retain the stones of each course together; and also upright ones to confine down the outside stones. Upon the five feet of moor-stone, he then interposed a couple of courses of solid timber, which terminated the *entire solid* of the basement."*

* Smeaton; who also relates the following anecdote. "Lewis the Fourteenth being at war with England during the proceeding with this building, a French privateer took the men at work upon the Edystone Rock, together with their tools, and carried them to France; and the Captain was in expectation of a reward for the atchievement. While the captives lay in prison, the transaction reached the ears of that Monarch: he immediately ordered them to be released, and the captors to be put in their places; declaring, that though he was at war with England, he was not so with mankind. He therefore directed the men to be sent back to their work, with presents; observing, that the Edystone Light-house was so situated, as to be of equal service to all nations having occasion to navigate the Channel between England and France." After this occurrence, the workmen were protected by frigates, by order of Prince George of Denmark.

Digitized by Google

As the structure increased in height, and consequently was more out of the heavy stroke of the sea, a less degree of strength and solidity would be equivalent to the latter, and therefore admit of a staircase within the building, with a passage into it: a central *well-hole* was therefore began to be left on the timbers which composed the uppermost course of the *solid*. On this course Mr. Rudyerd again proceeded with five moor-stone courses; and afterwards with courses of timber, and moor-stone courses, till he had carried the building to the height of thirty-seven feet on the lowest side; and here, on a course of oak plank, three inches thick, he made the floor of his Store-room. "The upper part of the building, comprehending four rooms, was chiefly formed by the outside upright timbers, having one kirb, or circle of compass timbers at each floor, to which the upright timbers were screwed and connected, and upon which the floor-timbers were rested. The uprights were also jag-bolted, and trenailed to one another; and in this manner the work was carried on to the height of thirty-four feet above the Store-room floor; and then terminated by a planking of three inches thick, which composed the roof of the main column, as well as served for the floor of the lantern, and of the balcony round it. Thus the main column of this building consisted of one simple figure, being an elegant *frustrum* of a cone, unbroken by any projecting ornament, or any thing whereon the violence of the storms could lay hold; being, exclusive of its sloping foundation, twenty-two feet, eight inches upon its largest circular base; sixty-one feet high above that circular base; and fourteen feet, three inches in diameter at the top. The whole height from the lowest side of the foundation, to the top of the ball which terminated the building, was ninety-two feet. The lantern was an octagon, the external diameter of which was ten feet, six inches." The quantity of materials expended in its construction, was 500 tons of stone; 1200 tons of timber; 80 tons of iron; 500 tons of lead; and of trenails, screws, and ruck-bolts, 2500 each.* This

* "It seems, that for many years after the establishment of this Light-house, it was attended by two men only; and, indeed, the duty required no more, as the

This building sustained the repeated attacks of the sea, in all its fury, for upwards of forty-six years after its completion, but was at length destroyed by fire; an element, against which, no precautions had been taken, because no ideas of danger had been conceived. "On the twenty-second of August, 1755, the workmen returned on shore, having finished all necessary repairs for the season; between which time, and the second of December following, the attending boat had been several times to the Light-house, and particularly on the first of December, and had landed some stores, when the light-keepers made no manner of complaint. On the morning, however, of the second of December, about two o'clock, when the light-keeper, then upon the watch, went into the lantern, as usual, to snuff the candles, he found the whole in a smoke; and, on opening the door of the lantern into the balcony, a flame instantly burst from the inside of the cupola: he immediately endeavored to alarm his companions; but they being in bed, and asleep, were not so ready in coming to his assistance as the

 occasion

the principal part of that, besides keeping the windows clean, was the alternately watching *four hours*, and *four hours*, to snuff and renew the candles; each, at the conclusion of his watch, taking care to call the other, and to see him on duty before he himself retired: but it happened that one of the men was taken ill, and died; and, notwithstanding the Edystone flag was hoisted, yet the weather was such for some time, as to prevent any boat from getting so near the Rocks as to speak to them. In this dilemma, the living man found himself in an aukward situation, being apprehensive that if he tumbled the dead body into the sea, which was the only way in his power to dispose of it, he might be charged with murder: this induced him for some time to let the dead body lie, in hopes that the boat might be able to land, and relieve him from the distress he was in. By degrees, the body became so offensive, that it was not in his power to get quit of it without help, for it was nearly a month before the attending boat could effect a landing; and then, to such a degree was the whole building filled with the stench of the corpse, that it was all they could do, to get the dead body disposed of, and thrown into the sea. This induced the proprietors to employ a third man; so that, in case of a future accident, of the same nature, or the sickness of either, there might be constantly one to supply the place. This regulation also afforded a seasonable relief to the light-keepers; for ever since there were three, it has been an established rule, that in the summer, in their turns, they are permitted each to go on shore, and spend a month among their friends and acquaintance." *Smeaton.*

Digitized by Google

occasion required. As there were always some leathern buckets kept in the house, and a tub of water in the lantern, he attempted, as speedily as possible, to extinguish the fire in the cupola, by throwing water from the balcony upon the outside cover of lead: by this time, his comrades approaching, he encouraged them to fetch up water with the leathern buckets from the sea; but as the height would be, at a medium, full seventy feet, this, added to the natural consternation that must attend such a sudden, and totally unexpected event, would occasion the business of bringing up water to go on but slowly.

"Meanwhile, the flames gathering strength every moment, and the light-keeper having the water to throw full four yards higher than his own head, to be of any service, we must by no means be surprised, that, under all these difficulties, the fire, instead of being soon extinguished, would increase: but what put a sudden stop to further exertions, was the following most remarkable circumstance. As he was looking upward with the utmost attention, to see the direction and success of the water thrown, (on which occasion, as phisyognomists tell us, the mouth is naturally a little open,) a quantity of lead, dissolved by the heat of the flames, suddenly rushed like a torrent from the roof, and fell, not only upon the man's head, face, and shoulders, but over his cloaths; and a part of it made its way through his shirt collar, and very much burnt his neck and shoulders: from this moment, he had a violent internal sensation, and imagined that a quantity of the lead had passed his throat, and got into his stomach. Under this violence of pain and anxiety, as every attempt had proved ineffectual, and the rage of the flames was increasing, it is not to be wondered at that the terror and dismay of the three men increased in proportion; so that they all found themselves intimidated, and glad to make their retreat from that immediate scene of horror, into one of the rooms below, where they would find themselves precluded from doing any thing: they seem, therefore, to have had no other source of retreat, than that of retiring downwards from room to room, as the fire advanced over their heads."*

Early

* Smeaton.

Digitized by Google

Early in the morning, the Light-house was discovered to be on fire by some Cawsand fishermen, and a boat was immediately procured, and sent to relieve the people, who were supposed to be within it in distress. This boat reached the Edystone Rocks about ten o'clock, after the fire had been burning full eight hours; and in this time, the three light-keepers were not only driven from all the rooms, and the staircase, but, to avoid the falling of the timber, red-hot bolts, &c. upon them, they had taken refuge in a hole, or cave, on the east-side of the Rock, and were found almost in a state of stupefaction; it being then low water. The wind at this time was eastwardly, and though not very strong, was yet sufficient to render the landing upon the Rock impracticable, or attended with the utmost hazard: it was with much difficulty, therefore, that the men could be taken into the boat; but this being accomplished, the boat hastened to Plymouth to procure them assistance. No sooner, however, were they set on shore, than one of them made off, and no tidings ever afterwards were obtained of him. This circumstance created some suspicion of the fire having originated in design; but as the peculiar situation of the Light-house "seemed to preclude the *possibility* of its being burnt wilfully," Mr. Smeaton attributed his flight to that kind of panic, which sometimes, on important occurrences, seizes weak minds; making them act without reason, and, in so doing, commit actions the very reverse in tendency of what they mean them to have, and of which they afterwards have occasion to repent."*

The

* The ill-fated man who discovered the Light-house to be on fire, and suffered so much from the melted lead, was sent to his own house at Stonehouse, near Plymouth. His name was Henry Hall; and though ninety-four years of age, being of a good constitution, he was remarkably active. He invariably told the surgeon who attended him, (Mr. Spry of Plymouth, afterwards Dr. Spry,) that if he would do any thing effectual to his recovery, he must relieve his stomach from the lead, which he was sure was within him. The reality of this assertion seemed, however, then incredible to Mr. Spry, who could scarcely suppose it possible that any human being should exist after receiving melted lead into the stomach, and much less after encountering so much fatigue and inconvenience, before any remedies could be applied. On the sixth day following

Digitized by Google

The late Admiral West, who then lay with a fleet in Plymouth Sound, no sooner heard of the fire, than he sent a launch, with several hands, and an engine; but the agitation of the waves round the Edystone Rocks was so great, that nothing could be done in stopping the progress of the flames; and, after some ineffectual attempts to play upon the building, the engine-pipe was broken by accident. The fire was in consequence left to its own course; for the height of the sea prevented every endeavor to land. In the succeeding days, it was observed, that the interposed beds of timber were sufficient to heat the moor-stone beds red-hot; and that the whole mass became one great body of red-hot matter. Nor was it till the seventh of the month, that the joint action of the wind, the fire, and the seas, totally completed the catastrophe so fatally began; and then left no other evidence of the destruction they had made, than that the greatest number of the iron cramps and branches were left standing upright upon the rock.

The third and present Light-house was erected by the late ingenious Mr. Smeaton. This gentleman was originally a Philosophical Instrument Maker, and being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, as a compliment to his talents, was honored with the esteem of the Earl of Macclesfield, then President, who recommended him to Robert Weston, Esq. one of the proprietors of the lease held under the Trinity House, as a person well qualified to construct

following the accident, the man was thought better, and, till the tenth and eleventh, constantly took his medicines, and swallowed many things, both liquid and solid: he then suddenly grew worse; and on the twelfth day, being seized with cold sweats and spasms, he soon afterwards expired. Mr. Spry dissected the body, and, on opening the stomach, found therein, a solid piece of lead, of a flat oval form, which weighed seven ounces and five drachms. An account of this extraordinary circumstance was transmitted, by Mr. Spry, to the Royal Society; but that learned body declined to publish the paper till some further elucidation was received. In consequence of this incredulity, Mr. Spry was induced to prosecute a series of experiments on the effects of liquid hot lead, the issue of which fully established the possibility of the occurrence. A lump of this metal, weighing three ounces, remained some time in the stomach of a fowl, without producing death; and the bird readily pecked, and swallowed several barley-corns, after the lead had been poured down its throat.

Digitized by Google

reconstruct a new edifice on the Edystone Rocks. Mr. Smeaton was at that time in Northumberland; yet, being written to on the subject in January, 1756, was at first unwilling to engage in the business; as he then supposed the Light-house was only *partially* destroyed, and that he had been chosen among others to form a scheme for its reparation, which, on the event of its being approved, he might be employed to execute. As this was an uncertainty for which he thought it imprudent to relinquish some prior engagements, he returned a correspondent answer. To this his friend, Mr. B. Wilson, who had before written to him by Mr. Weston's desire, laconically replied, "That it was a total demolition; and that, as NATHAN said unto DAVID, 'Thou art the man.'

The receipt of this letter determined Mr. Smeaton to complete his business in the North, and return to town; which he did on the twenty-third of February, and the next day had an interview with Mr. Wilson. During this interview, he for the first time obtained a competent idea of the importance and difficulty of the work he was about to undertake; and having carefully inspected the drawings and models of the former Light-houses, directed his thoughts to the reasons which had caused the failure of both those structures. In doing this, he was naturally induced to reflect on the durability of a building *entirely* composed of stone. As this scheme involved the expenditure of a much larger sum than might have been appropriated for the purpose, he at once put the question, that, "if any improvements could be made in the stability or durability of the structure, whether the proprietors would wish to adopt it; though it should incur a greater expence than the mere re-erection of the last building?" To this Mr. Weston, with an emphasis, which at once redounded to the lasting honor both of himself and the other proprietors, replied, "That if there was a possibility of rebuilding the Light-house in any better, or more durable manner than it had been, though almost half of the original lease from the Corporation of the Trinity House was then expired, yet the matter being now in their hands, they should think themselves bound, for the sake of posterity, to do every thing that lay in

Digitized by Google

in their power to render the new building not only effectual for their own time, but as *permanent* as possible." On these principles Mr. Smeaton undertook the business; answering the objections made to a *stone* edifice, by some of the proprietors at a subsequent meeting, with the emphatical words, that, *if the building would not give way to the sea, the sea must give way to the building;* and handsomely offering, at the same time, that, if a stone building was preferred, the *onus probandi*, if it failed, should rest on himself.

The object from which Mr. Smeaton conceived his idea of rebuilding the Edystone Light-house, was from the waist or bole of a large spreading oak, which, though subject to a very great impulse from the agitation of violent winds, resists them all, partly from its elasticity, and partly from its natural strength, till the gradual decay of the substance diminishes the coherence of the parts. Considering the particular figure of the tree, as connected with its roots, which lie hid below ground, Mr. Smeaton observed, that it rose from the surface with a large swelling base, which at the height of one diameter is generally reduced by an elegant curve, concave to the eye, to a diameter, less by at least one-third; and sometimes, to half its original base. From thence, its taper diminishing more slow, its sides, by degrees, come into a perpendicular, and for some height, form a cylinder: after that a preparation of more circumference becomes necessary for the strong insertion and establishment of the principal boughs, which produce a swelling of its diameter. Hence may be deduced an idea of what the proper shape of a column of the *greatest stability* ought to be, to resist the action of external violence, when the *quantity of matter is given* whereof it is to be composed.

The next object of consideration with Mr. Smeaton, was the manner in which the blocks of stone, of which he proposed to construct the edifice, could be *bonded* to the Rock, and to one another, in so firm an order, as that not only the whole together, but every individual piece, when connected with what preceded, should be proof against the greatest violence of the sea; for "I plainly saw," observes this ingenious artizan, "from the relations I had got, that as every part of the work, even in the most favorable sea-

Digitized by Google

sons, was liable so be attacked by violent storms, if any thing was left to the mercy of the sea, and good fortune, the building of the Edystone Light-house with stone would be tantamount to the rolling of the stone of Sisyphus!"

Impressed with these ideas, Mr. Smeaton directed his attention to the best method of insuring the stability of his building; and, after reflecting on the vast difficulty of fixing cramp irons in the Rock, as his predecessors, Mr. Winstanley and Mr. Rudyerd, had done, and the great consumption of time it would occasion on his own plan of making the entire fabric of stone, determined to try what might be performed in the way of *dovetailing;* having seen something of this kind in Belidor's Description of the Stone Floor of the Great Sluice at Cherbourg, where the tails of the upright headers are cut into dovetails, for their insertion into the mass of rough masonry below. From this circumstance he was induced to think, that if the blocks themselves were, both inside and out, all formed into large dovetails, they might be managed so as mutually to lock one another together, being primarily engrafted into the Rock: and in the round or entire courses, above the top of the Rock, the blocks might all proceed from, and be locked to, one large central stone. On these principles Mr. Smeaton proceeded to the construction of his edifice; having first arranged the most essential modes of proceedure with the proprietors, whose public spirit, in submitting with the utmost readiness to every expence that might accrue in the progress of the building, is deserving of the highest eulogium. "They determined," says Mr. Smeaton, "that there might be no deficiency in advancing so noble, so beneficial, so humane a design, that this preservative of trade and navigation should be rendered as *durable* as *nature* and *art* could furnish means for doing." This determination was the more honorable, because the proprietors had voluntarily relinquished the duties, paid by all shipping passing the Edystone, till a light could be again exhibited.* To

* These duties are one penny per ton upon all British ships, outward or homeward bound, on, or from, foreign voyages; one shilling per vessel on coasters; and double these sums on foreign ships, when they come into British ports. The King's ships are all free.

Digitized by Google

To expedite the building of the Light-house, Mr. Smeaton resolved to have all his materials framed, and got ready, on shore; and for this purpose made choice of a field adjacent to *Mill Bay*, about a mile west from Plymouth; this place being well screened from the winds, and particularly on the west side, for all kind of vessels that might be wanted in forwarding the work. Many other necessary steps were taken to insure the success of the enterprise; and, previous to the commencement of the edifice, a plan of accounts was digested by Mr. Smeaton, for the satisfaction of the proprietors, which, from the variety of articles that were wanted, occasioned the opening of fourteen books.

After several preparatory voyages, the first stone of the Light-house, with the date of the year inscribed in deep characters, was laid on the morning of the twelfth of June, 1757, embedded in mortar,* trenailed down, and fixed. The work was now carried on with as much celerity as possible; and by the eleventh of August, the six basement courses, containing 123 pieces of stone, many of them weighing from a ton and a half to two tons and a half, were completely fixed, and the chief difficulties were now considered as surmounted.

"Having got the work to this desirable situation," says Mr. Smeaton, "I apprehend it will be agreeable to my reader, to be more particularly acquainted with the method in which the stones were set and fixed. When each piece of which the course was to consist was separately wrought, they were all brought to their exact places with respect to each other upon the platform in the Work-Yard, and so marked, that, after being numbered, and taken to pieces, they could again be restored to the same relative position. This was done upon the complete circular courses, by drawing lines from the centre to the circumference, passing through

* Before the building commenced, Mr. Smeaton instituted a series of experiments, to determine the kind of cement that was best adapted to resist the united action of the winds and waves, a long and interesting detail of which may be seen in his Narrative of the building of the Light-house. The composition preferred for use, was a mixture of lime of *blue lyas*, and *puzzolana*, in equal quantities.

Digitized by Google

through the middle of each set of stones; and likewise concentric circles, through the middle of each tier, or circle of stones, so as to indicate to the eye, their relative position to each other. In a similar manner the stones of the *base courses* were marked by lines drawn parallel to the length of the steps, into which the sloping surface of the Rock had been formed; and others perpendicular to the same. There was, however, a nicety in this part of the work that required particular attention, and that was in making a provision for setting the four *radical* stones that occupy the four *radical* dovetails into which each step was formed. In the waist of each piece of stone two grooves were cut, from the top to the bottom of the course, of an inch in depth, and three inches in width; applicable to those grooves, were prepared a number of oak wedges, somewhat less than three inches in breadth, about one inch thick at the head, nearly three-eighths thick at the point, and six inches long.

"The stones were first tried, and heaved into, and out of, their recesses, by a light moveable triangle, which being furnished with a light double tackle, the greatest number of the pieces could be purchased by the simple application of the hand. The stone to be set, being hung in the tackle, and its bed of mortar spread, was then lowered into its place, and beat down with a heavy wooden maul, and levelled with a spirit level; and the stone being brought accurately to its marks, it was then considered as set in its place. The carpenter now dropped into each groove two of the wedges already described, one upon its head, and the other with its point downward; so that the two wedges in each groove would then lie *heads* and *points*. Then with a bar of iron, the upper wedge was driven down upon the other, very gently at first, so that the opposite pairs of wedges being equally tightened, they would equally resist each other, and the stone therefore keep its place. A couple of wedges were in like manner pitched at the *top* of each groove; the dormant wedge, or that with the point upward, being held in the hand, while the drift wedge, or that with its point downward, was driven with a hammer: the whole of what remained above the upper surface of the stone was then cut off with

a saw, or chissel; and generally, a couple of *thin* wedges were driven very moderately at the but-end of the stone; whose tendency being to force it out of its dovetail, they would, by moderately driving, only tend to preserve the whole mass steady together, in opposition to the violent agitation that might arise from the sea. After a stone was *thus* fixed, we never, in fact, had an instance of its having been stirred by any action of the sea whatever; but, considering the unmeasured violence thereof, the further security by *trenails* was suggested."

These trenails were of oak, one inch and three quarters in diameter, and being driven in a particular manner into the holes made in each piece of stone, " no assignable power, less than what would by main stress pull the trenails in two, could lift one of these stones from their beds, when so fixed, exclusive of their natural weight, as all agitation was prevented by the lateral wedges." A proper quantity of beat mortar was then liquified; and the joints having been carefully pointed up to the upper surface, the *grout* so prepared was run in with iron ladles, and was brought to such a consistency as to occupy every void space; any vacuities left by the dry stones absorbing the water, were afterwards re-filled till all remained solid; the top was then pointed; and, when necessary, defended from the action of the sea-water by a coat of plaster.

By similar methods to the above, and taking every additional precaution to ensure the stability of the structure, that the utmost attention to its situation and use could suggest, the whole was completed in the course of the years 1757, 1758, and 1759. In this period, several violent gales had been experienced, but without damaging any part of the works; and no accident had happened to any one concerned, during the progress of the building, by which the work could be said to be materially retarded. The last stone was set on the twenty-fifth of August, 1759; the height of the main column, containing forty-six courses, was now taken, and to be seventy feet.

Between the latter end of August, and the middle of October, the lantern and cupola were erected, and the whole edifice surmounted by a gilt ball. The lantern is an octagon; the frame-work being

Digitized by Google

being composed of cast iron, and copper. On the night of the sixteenth of October, when the light was exhibited in the new Light-house, a very great storm happened, and the light-keepers observed that they felt a sensible motion in the building; but, from their experience of its strength, they were neither agitated by fear nor surprise. The whole time from the commencement of the fire which destroyed the second Light-house, to the re-kindling of the light, was three years, ten months, and sixteen days. The whole time of working upon the rock, during the building of the present Light-house, was one hundred and eleven days, ten hours.

The outside and basement of this edifice is formed of granite; that kind of stone being more durable than any other, and more competent to resist the action of the sea: the interior is chiefly of Portland-stone. Round the upper store-room, upon the course of granite under the ceiling, is the following inscription, sunk with the point of a pick.

EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE,
THEY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT.
Psalm CXXVII.

Upon the last stone set up, being that over the door of the lantern on the east side, are the words,

24th AUG. 1759.
*LAUS DEO.**

The course, and more prominent features, of the TAMAR, have already been described;† but as the beautiful scenery on its banks merits a more particular detail, we shall here introduce a description of its variegated shores, as beheld in a sail up the river from

* The principal particulars of the above description are derived from the very interesting Narrative of the Building and Construction of the Edystone Light-house, by Mr. Smeaton. This Work is one of the most valuable of its kind ever published; as it contains a very complete exposition of most of the principles on which buildings exposed to the action of the seas and storms should be erected.

† Vol. II. p. 356.

Digitized by Google

Plymouth Dock to the Weir, about twenty-two miles distant. This voyage is very interesting, and is frequently undertaken by summer parties.

At the estuary of the Tamar, the *Hamoaze*, the coast, with the exception of Mount Edgcumbe, is rather low or flat; but the various inlets which indent it to the right and left, give it considerable charms. Near *Anthony*, the Tamar receives the Lynher, or St. German's River; and from this part the prospect is highly pleasing; the richly wooded seat of R. P. Carew, Esq. the ruins of Trematon Castle, a long stretch of the river, the grand appearance of the shipping in the Hamoaze, the busy town of Dock, and Mount Edgcumbe in the distance, are beheld with much interest. Soon after the town of *Saltash*, situated on a steep hill, and a long stretch of rich country, bounded by Dartmoor, meet the eye. Here a considerable angle is formed by the course of the river, which opens in a north-easterly direction for some miles, and extending its boundaries, assumes the appearance of a beautiful lake. Several inlets add to the effect; but particularly that to the left, on the banks of which *Landulph Church* is situated; and another extensive one on the opposite side, which leads to Tamerton, and is inclosed by the most delightful rural scenery. The romantic village of *St. Budeaux*, or *Budshed*, lies on the right; and on the left, the banks of the river are overhung by the woods of *Warleigh*, the ancient seat of the Copplestons. Near this spot, the Tavy unites its water with the Tamar; which is also increased by five other tributary streams. The course of the river is now found to be most eccentric, its waters flowing round peninsulas of four or five miles in extent. Nearly opposite the Tavy, is the small village called *Kargreen;* and further on the right, an interesting little place, named *Hole's Hole*. The river now inclines to the north, and a burst of admiration is soon excited by the striking situation of *Pentilly Castle*, on a fine wooded knoll, considerably elevated. Nearly opposite this spot, water parties run great risk of being detained, if passing at low water, till the next high tide, as a considerable tract of mud stretches from the Bere-Ferris side, and presents the appearance of deep water, when only covered to the depth of a few inches.

From

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Engrav'd by J. Stewart, from a Drawing by Thompson, after a Sketch by S. Prout. for the Beauties of England and Wales.

CÓTELE CHAPEL,
(on the River Tamar.)
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

From hence, the channel of the river again becomes irregular; and sailing onward, the woods of *Cotehele* appear in the distance. The gradual approach to them discloses the second grand feature on the river, which is formed by the beautiful hanging woods of Cotehele, and the Chapel built by Sir Richard Edgcumbe. The rich coloring of the schistose rocks, which skirt the river, and are tinted with white and yellow lichens, contrasting with the beautiful leafage of the woods, has a fine effect; and their combined reflection in the water, on a still evening, is particularly pleasing. On one side of Cotehele House is a combe, or valley, called *Danes'-combe*, from the Danes being said, by tradition, to have passed it on their way to Hengist Down, about a mile beyond. On the left is *Calstock*; and on the heights above, the village Church. The Tamar now assumes a circuitous course; and *Harewood House* is seen standing on the lofty ridge of a fine peninsula, and commanding a very extensive prospect. Near this place commences the beautiful rocky scenery on the Devon side of the river, which continues, with little interruption, for the space of a league. The Tamar making a bold sweep round Harewood, discloses a view of Calstock Parsonage: opposite which the rocks assume uncommon dignity, increasing in height and extent, and displaying a considerable variety of coloring. A few pleasant reaches of the river are now passed, and the *Weir Head* is seen, where the water thunders over an artificial bed of rocks. Here the navigation of the Tamar terminated; but a canal has lately been formed, by which the communication is continued with the upper part of the river. The scenery above the Weir on the right, consists of high grounds, and jutting masses of rocks, interspersed with forest trees; and on the left, of a gradual ascent to the elevated land of Hingston. At *Greystone Bridge*, the river has a very picturesque appearance. "Here the Tamar, gently murmuring over a pebbly bed, leads his stream under a light and neat stone bridge, most tastefully ornamented with a thin veil of ivy, and consisting of seven arches, which are but partially seen through the alders, willows, and other waving plants, which fringe the margin of the stream. A narrow strip of meadow curbs the river on the left hand, skirted with an

Digitized by Google

airy fillet of tall elegant ash and beech trees, backed by a solemn wood of oak. After shooting through the bridge, the Tamar makes a bold sweep to the right, which introduces a magnificent steep bank in front of the picture, one deep mass of shade from top to bottom."*

The village of ST. BUDEAUX, corruptly termed *Budshed*, is situated about five miles north of Plymouth, near the Tamar, on an eminence which commands several delightful prospects over the adjacent country. This place was anciently called *Budeokshed*, from a respectable family of that name, who possessed the estate for fourteen generations; and one of whom, Thomas Budeokshed, was Sheriff of Devon in the time of Henry the Sixth. On failure of male issue, it was conveyed, by the marriage of Winifred, sister and coheiress of Philip Budeokshed, Esq. to Sir William Gorges, whose only surviving descendant is said to be the celebrated Gorges, who commanded the Chouans in Brittany during the latter part of the eventful period of the French Revolution. Sir Arthur Gorges sold Budeokshed to the *Trevills*. It has lately been in the possession of Sir Harry Trelawney; but is now the property of G. H. Clark, Esq. The Manor-House is a very ancient and venerable building, at present in a state of rapid decay, and only inhabited by a farmer.

The Church of St. Budeaux, a plain and simple edifice, was erected with the materials of an older structure, which stood in an unhealthy situation, near the water's edge, about the latter end of the fourteenth century, at the expence of Robert Budeokshed, Esq. who was born in the Manor-House. Several of the Budeoksheds and Gorges lie buried in this fabric, which stands on a very pleasant eminence. The late rector of this parish was the eccentric *Mr. Thomas Alcock*, who officiated at St. Budeaux more than sixty years. The principal shade in his character was a rigid penuriousness, which deprived him of many of the comforts of existence. "The homeliness of his dwelling no description can exceed: every article of modern convenience was excluded. His drawing-

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties, p. 150.

Digitized by Google

drawing-room was a miserable bed-chamber, with walls that *once* were white-washed, and where nothing appeared in opposition to their simplicity. Here he boiled his coffee, toasted his cakes, and entertained his guests at the same time; who forgot, in the charms of his conversation, the wretched apartment they were in, and the yellow time-worn bed on which some of them perhaps were obliged to sit instead of a sofa. His sermons abounded with Latin and Greek quotations, and passages from the English Poets: even the treasures of private epistolary correspondence contributed to the instruction of his congregation." His Memoirs of Dr. Nathan Alcock, his brother, is a well written piece of biography.

WARLEIGH, in the time of King Stephen, was the principal residence of the ancient family of Foliat, who owned the manor of Tamerton. From the Foliats, it passed, by different intermarriages, to the *Copplestons;* from whom, by marriage also, it has become the property of the *Radcliffes.* The mansion is beautifully situated near the junction of the Tavy with the Tamar; and the grounds are extremely pleasant.

BERE-ALSTON, though only a mean and inconsiderable hamlet, in the parish of Bere-Ferris, has the privilege of returning two Members to Parliament. The right of election is vested in those who have land in the borough, and pay three-pence acknowledgment to the Lord of the Manor; who varies the number of electors at his pleasure, by granting burgage-tenures to as many of his own partizans as may be requisite. These burgage-tenures are generally resigned as soon as the elections are concluded, though, in some instances, they have amounted to one hundred. The returning officer is the Portreve, who is chosen annually in the Lord's Court. The first return was made in the twenty-seventh of Queen Elizabeth. "*Beare,*" says Risdon, "was bestowed, by William the Conqueror, on a branch budded out of the house of Alençon, in France, and corruptly continueth the name to this day in Bere-Alson. Henry Ferrers held this honor in Henry the Second's tyme, and had his castle here, whom many Knights of that family followed. Martin Ferrers, the last of this house, and principal man in the government of this shire, was put in special trust,

Digitized by Google

with others, for the defence of the sea coaste against the invasions of the French in Edward the Third's tyme. He left issue three daughters;" one of whom, by marriage, conveyed this estate to the *Champernounes*, from whom it descended to Willoughby, Lord Brooke. From this family it passed by marriage to Charles Blount, son and heir to William, Lord Mountjoy. Mountjoy Blount, created Earl of Newport by Charles the First, sold the manor of Bere-Alston and Bere-Ferris to Sir John Maynard, Knt. whose grand-daughter married the Earl of Stamford. The present possessor is the Duke of Northumberland. At Bere-Alston are several lead mines, though of inconsiderable value. The ore is sometimes impregnated with silver; and in the reign of Edward the First, the produce is said to have been so great, that 1600 weight of silver was obtained in the course of three years. Since that period, this metal has never been procured in any quantity.

The Church of BERE-FERRERS, or BERE FERRIS, as it is now generally called, contains several ancient monuments; particularly one under an arched recess, of a cross-legged knight, half reclined on his right side, with his right hand on his sword; and another of a knight and his lady, under a richly ornamented arch in the chancel. Among the figures painted on the east window, is that of William Ferrers, who was probably the builder of this fabric, as he is represented kneeling, and holding the model of a church in his hand.

In the parish of Bere-Ferris "lieth LEY, the ancient possession of a family so called, whence the name tooke that honor; for from hence Sir James Ley, Knt. Lord Chief Justice of England, and High Treasurer, created afterwards Earle of Marlborough, was descended; a lawgiver in the chief place of justice, and a preserver of venerable antiquity, whose noble thoughts were so fixed on virtue, and his discourses ymbellished with wisdome, and his heart with integrity, that his words did never bite, nor his actions wronge any man, to give him just cause of complaynt."*

MARISTOW, on the eastern bank of the river Tavy, is a seat of considerable beauty, now the property of Manassah Lopes, Esq. who

* Risdon.

Digitized by Google

who purchased it for 65,000l. of the daughters and coheiresses of the late Mr. Haywood. The inequality of the grounds, windings of the Tavy, and rich hanging woods, which characterize this demesne, present many highly picturesque and beautiful views.

BUCKLAND ABBEY, OR PLACE, a seat of Lord Heathfield, is situated on the eastern banks of the river Tavy. Here was formerly a monastery of Cistercians, founded in 1278, by Amicia, wife of Baldwin de Rivers, Earl of Devon, and daughter of Gilbert de Clare. At the Dissolution its yearly revenues were valued, according to Dugdale, at 241l. 17s. 9d. and the site was afterwards granted to Richard Greynfield. Some parts of the building still preserve a monastic appearance; but modern alterations have nearly obliterated its ancient features. In the house is an original portrait of SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, Anno. Dom. 1594, ætatis suæ 53; and a framed copy of his patent of arms from Queen Elizabeth, dated 1581. Here is also a full-length of the same Admiral; with the sword and an old drum which he took with him in his voyage round the world. About one mile north-east from the Abbey is the village of

BUCKLAND-MONACHORUM, whose handsome Church, and its monuments, are entitled to particular notice. The former consists of a nave, two side aisles, two small transepts, and a handsome tower, with octagon turrets and pinnacles. Within the walls are deposited the remains of some of the *Heathfields* and *Drakes*, to whose memory several elegant marble monuments have been raised. At the east end of the north aisle is a very handsome one, executed by John Bacon, R. A. 1795. At the top is a medallion of the venerable and illustrious LORD HEATHFIELD, the brave defender of Gibraltar. Below is a figure of Britannia, holding the model of the gate of a fortress, inscribed *plus ultra;* and a boy, with a key and a palm branch, holding a shield. On the monument are four bass reliefs, representing, first, a piece of ordnance, with a lighted match: second, a furnace for heating red-hot shot, cannons, culverins, &c. third, Lord Heathfield directing military operations: fourth, floating batteries on fire, and the drowning sailors rescued from the waves.

Digitized by Google

The whole monument is executed with much historical taste and judgment, and inscribed with the following lines, descriptive of the family and fame of the noble General, whose memory it is intended to perpetuate.

Sacred to the Memory of
GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELLIOT, BARON HEATHFIELD,
OF GIBRALTER,
Knight of the Bath, General of His Majesty's Forces, and Governor of Gibraltar.
He was the seventh Son of *Sir Gilbert Elliot*, Bart. of *Stobs*, in the
County of *Roxburgh*, in *Scotland*.
The University of *Leyden* enriched his Mind with Science, and formed his
Taste for Literature and the Polite Arts.
The Bias of his Genius soon inclined him to the Profession of Arms, in which
He rose by regular gradation to the highest Eminence,
And at length closed a brilliant Career
With immortal Glory.
Germany beheld him in the War of seven Years, discharging all the Duties of a
Gallant Officer.
The *British Cavalry* owed to him a System of Discipline that made him
The Pride of their Country.
The *Havannah*, the Metropolis of the Island of *Cuba*,
Saw him among the Officers who levelled her boasted Fortifications,
And conquered by their Valour.
Gibraltar was reserved to crown him with unfading Laurels:
Though closely pressed during a Siege that lasted three Years without Intermission,
He remained Invincible.
The Spectacle which he there exhibited to the Eyes of *France* and *Spain*, and to the
Amphitheatre of *Princes*, who beheld the glorious Scene,
will be an eternal Memorial of
British Courage, and British Humanity.
GENERAL ELLIOT derived no hereditary Honors from his Ancestors;
His Titles were earned by *Services* to his Country.
He married ANN POLEXEN DRAKE, Daughter of SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, Bart.
Who lies interred near this Spot:
And by her left a Daughter, who was married to *John Trayton Fuller, Esq.*
And an only Son, now LORD HEATHFIELD,
Who has erected this Monument to the Virtue which he admired.
History will tell the rest.
He died July 6th, 1790. Aged 72 Years.

Near

Digitized by Google

Near the above monument is a small mural tablet, with the figure of Truth leaning over an urn; under which is the following inscription.

In a Vault beneath are interred the Remains of Sir Francis Henry Drake, Bart. of Buckland Abbey, in the County of Devon. He died on the 9th of Feb. 1794, aged 70 Years. His Descent was illustrious, being lineally descended from the great Naval Warrior of the 16th Century. His natural and acquired Endowments were such, that had the Strength of his Constitution been equal to the Powers of his Mind, he might justly have aspired to the first Offices of State. He was Clerk Comptroller of the Board of Green Cloth, in the Reigns of their Majesties King George the Second, and King George the Third; and for more than Twenty Years immediately preceding his Death, was Master of the King's Household. The Duties of which Stations he discharged with Fidelity to the King, and Honor to himself. In Testimony of the Respect due to his Memory, his Nephew, the Right Honorable Francis Augustus, Lord Heathfield, Baron of Gibraltar, caused this Monument to be erected.

TAVISTOCK,*

Prior to the year 961, was the manor and principal residence of Orgar, Duke of Devonshire, who, according to the Monkish Legends,

* "*Tavystoke* is the chief place upon Tavyes banke, where, in the dayes of Edgar, the first unresisted Monarch of this lande, Orgarius, Duke of Devon, kept his court; the echo of whose faire daughter Elfleda's beauty sounded so loude in the King's ears, that it caused him to imploy Ethelwold, his minion, to woe her in his behalfe, to be dignified with the title of a Queene; but as sometyme it falleth out, there is falshoode in fellowshipp, this Earle sued unto her for himselfe, and that with good liking of her father, so as the King would consent, unto whom he returned this answer, that 'the lady came farr short of such perfection as fame gave out, and in noe wise for feature fitt for a King:' whereupon Edgar, mistrusting no double dealing, soone consented, and Orgarius gave his daughter to Ethelwold in marriage; after which her beauty was more liberally spoken off than before; whereof King Edgar taking notice, came into Devonshire, under colour of hunting, to visit Duke Orgarius; which being apprehended by Ethelwold, he discovered the truth to his Lady, and earnestly besought her to save his life from the King's danger: but she showing herself a woman, desired nothing more than the thing forbidden, dressing herself with costly ornaments to attend the coming of the King, whom, with

Digitized by Google

Legends, being admonished by a vision, began a magnificent Abbey here, which was completed in 981, by Ordulph, his son, and endowed, by him and his Lady, with this and various other manors. King Ethelred increased the establishment of his nephew Ordulph, and invested the monks with many other privileges; but within thirty years after its foundation, the Abbey was burnt to the ground by the Danes, who had sailed up the Tamar, and landed at a few miles distance. Soon afterwards the Abbey was rebuilt, and the establishment became more flourishing, additional grants and immunities having been given by various persons. In the charter of confirmation made in the twenty-first of Edward the Third, a charter granted by Henry the First is recited by *Inspeximus*, from which it appears, that that Monarch bestowed "the Jurisdiction, and the whole Hundred of Tavistock," upon the Abbey, together with the privilege of a weekly market, and a three days fair. The riches of the Abbots continuing to increase, their pride seems to have proportionably augmented; and Richard Barham, the thirty-fifth Abbot, procured from Henry the Eighth, the privilege of sitting in the House of Peers; or, in other words, was mitred; probably, says Browne Willis, *by purchase*, in order to be revenged on Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, with whom he had great disputes; and at length occasioned him to be excommunicated. The patent by which this Abbot was honored with a mitre, is dated the twenty-third of January, 1513; but the privilege continued only till the year 1539, when John Peryn, the thirty-sixth and last Abbot, surrendered his Monastery, and had an annual salary of 100l. settled on him for life. The yearly value of its revenues was then estimated at 902l. 5s. 7¾d. The same year the

with an amiable grace, she entertained, which so inflamed his desires, that, palliating his affection for the present, he went forth an hunting, where, at a place called Wilverley, since, Warlewood, the Earle was found slaine with an arrow, (as some will,) others with a javelin; and shortly after King Edgar tooke fayre Elfleda for his Queene." *Risdon.* On this story Mason founded his beautiful dramatic poem Elfrida, the scene of which he has placed in Cornwall, tradition having represented Harewood as the spot where Ethelwold was slain.

Digitized by Google

the possessions of the Abbey, with the borough and town of Tavistock, were given, by the King, to John, Lord Russel, whose descendant, the present Duke of Bedford, is now proprietor, having succeeded to the family estates on the demise of his lamented brother, in 1802.

Various fragments of the Abbey still remain, but are, for the most part, incorporated with other buildings. The Abbey Church is described, by Leland, as 126 yards in length; the cloisters as extensive; and the Chapter-House, as a most magnificent structure: but all these have long been completely demolished. The ruins of the latter building were removed in the year 1736, and a neat house erected on its site, for the residence of the Duke of Bedford's Steward. Several buildings, that seem to have belonged to the Abbey, are now used for warehouses, and other purposes; and adjoining to the principal Inn, is a large handsome arched gate-way, ornamented with lofty pinnacles, apparently of the time of Henry the Sixth. Some portion of the stables also appears, from its architecture, to have been connected with the Abbey.

Tavistock derives its name from its situation on the banks of the Tavy, and the Saxon word *stock*, signifying, a place. Its origin and growth seem to have arisen from the foundation and establishment of the Abbey; and it is at present a large and populous town. The river is here crossed by two bridges, and after storms of rain, by flowing over various ledges and masses of rock, presents a very tumultuous spectacle. The streets are narrow, and indifferently paved; and many of the houses have an appearance of age. The Church is a spacious building, dedicated to St. Eustachius: it consists of four aisles, a chancel, and a tower at the west end, raised on arches. Several of the monuments are deserving of notice; and within the Church are also preserved some human bones of a gigantic size, which were found in a stone coffin, dug out of the ruins of the Abbey, and are said, by tradition, to be those of Ordulph, whom William of Malmsbury represents as so immense in stature, that he could stride over rivers ten feet wide!

An

Digitized by Google

An institution for the study of Saxon Literature existed in Tavistock at a very early period, and lectures were read in that language in a building purposely appropriated, and called the Saxon School. These lectures were discontinued about the period of the Reformation; and though they are reported to have been re-commenced in the reign of Charles the First, the evidence to the circumstance is by no means satisfactory. Several of the Abbots were learned men; and the encouragement they gave to literature is evident, by the establishment of a printing-press in the Abbey within a few years of the time when the art was brought into England. Among the books that issued from this press, was Walton's Translation of *Boetius de Consolatione*, "emprented in the exempte Monastery of Tavestoke in Denshyre, by me Dan Thomas Rychard, monke of the said monastery," 1525, quarto; and "the Confirmation of the Tynners Charter;" twenty-sixth of Henry the Eighth; sixteen leaves, quarto. Bishop Gibson also mentions a Saxon Grammar as having been printed here about the commencement of the Civil Wars; but this assertion is supposed by other antiquaries to be unfounded.

Tavistock sent Members to Parliament as early as the twenty-third of Edward the First; but does not appear to have been incorporated. The returning officer is the Portreve, who is elected annually at the Lord's Court, by twenty-four freeholders. The number of voters is about 110; many of whom hold their freeholds under a similar conveyance to the burgage-tenures at Bere-Alston. The population of the parish, according to the late returns, amounted to 4390; of these 1905 were males, and 2485 females: the number of houses was 655. Many of the inhabitants are employed in the manufacture of serges for the East-India Company.

Among the most eminent natives of this town, and its vicinity, are enumerated Sir John Glanville, a Judge; Sir John Maynard, Sergeant at Law; Sir Francis Drake; and the Poet, William Browne.

Sir Francis Drake, the first Englishman that circumnavigated the globe, and one of the most distinguished seamen that Britain

Digitized by Google

Britain ever produced, was born in the year 1545. His earliest years were devoted to maritime employments, and for some time he served under his kinsman, Sir John Hawkins, in the West Indies. Here some indignities being offered him by the Spaniards, he vowed revenge; and on his return to England, fitted out two ships against that people, with which he assailed their possessions in the Gulph of Mexico; and though wounded and repulsed in an attack on Nombre de Dios, obtained considerable booty in other places. The following year, 1571, he made a second expedition; and in 1572, a third; in which, by his daring enterprizes, he acquired much wealth and reputation. Returning to England in 1573, he equipped three frigates at his own expence, and sailed with them to Ireland, where he served as a volunteer under Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, and obtained so much renown for his gallant actions, that he was soon afterwards introduced to Queen Elizabeth. He now projected his famous expedition round the globe; and the proposal receiving the approbation of his Sovereign, he set sail on the thirteenth of December, 1577, and, after encountering many dangers, arrived safely in England, on the third of November, 1580, having performed his voyage in little more than two years and ten months. Shortly after his arrival, the Queen went to Deptford, and dined with him on board his ship; when, after dinner, she conferred on him the order of knighthood, and gave directions that the vessel, in which he had endured so many difficulties, and obtained for his country such immortal honor, should be preserved as a monument of his own and Britain's glory.* In 1585, he sailed with a fleet to the West Indies, where, though the Spaniards had intimation of his design, he captured St. Jago, St. Domingo, Carthagena, and St. Augustin. Two years afterwards, having received intelligence that many vessels, intended to form part of the Armada, were collected at Cadiz, he entered that port, and burnt upwards of 10,000 tons of shipping. In 1588 he was made Vice-Admiral of the fleet

* This celebrated ship was preserved at Deptford for many years; but at length decaying, it was broke up, and a chair made out of the planks was presented to the University at Oxford.

Digitized by Google

fleet assembled under the command of Charles, Lord Howard, of Effingham, to prevent the threatened invasion; and when the hostile armament approached our shores, he made prize of one of the largest galleons, commanded by Don Pedro de Valdez, the reported projector of the expedition. The following year he was sent to restore Don Antonio, King of Portugal; but the attempt proved abortive, through a quarrel between Sir Francis and Sir John Norris, the commander of the land forces. Another expedition, under the conduct of Drake, and Sir John Hawkins, against the Spanish settlements in the West Indies, proved equally unsuccessful; and the strong sense of disappointment experienced by the former, occasioned an illness which terminated in his death, on the twenty-eighth of January, 1595-6. He died on board his own ship, near the town of Nombre de Dios, and was much lamented by the English nation.

WILLIAM BROWNE was born at Tavistock in the year 1590. He was a poet of considerable eminence in his day, as may be seen by the recommendatory verses prefixed to his poems, and addressed to him by Selden, Drayton, Brooke, Glanville, Ben Jonson, and others. The first part of his Britannia's Pastorals was printed at London, A. D. 1613, folio; and the second part in 1616. His Shepherd's Pipe, in seven eclogues, was published 1614. Other poems are ascribed to him. His versification is remarkably smooth and flowing for the age in which he wrote, when there was among many poets an affectation of harshness. In the poem styled Britannia's Pastorals, he has introduced several very pretty allusions, descriptive of scenery in this vicinity: and, perhaps, the best episode in his work, is the Love of *Tavy* for *Walla*, who was metamorphosed into a stream to avoid the pursuit of a satyr. The scenery which he has introduced corresponds, even at present, with that on the banks of the Walla-Brook, which flows through Juscombe into the Tavy. In this episode he has evidently taken Ovid as his model; and, indeed, in almost every page he shews his intimate acquaintance with the classics. He published this work when a Member of the Inner Temple; and it appears from a poem addressed to him, that he was Doctor of Divinity.

Digitized by Google

Divinity. Prince, in his Worthies of Devon, says, that he took his degree of Master of Arts in 1624.

MORWEL HOUSE, about three miles from Tavistock, was the hunting seat of the abbots of Tavistock; and, from its situation near Morwel-Down, and the woods on the banks of the Tamar, was well adapted for this purpose. Its form is quadrangular, with a large arched gateway in front, ornamented in a similar manner to those of the abbey. The vaulted ceiling of this entrance has several coats of arms sculptured in moor-stone.

At a little distance is *Morwel-Rock*, which rises almost perpendicularly to an immense height from the bed of the Tamar. The views from its summit are uncommonly beautiful; and as the lower part is surrounded with wood, they burst upon the sight at once with singular effect. The tower of Calstock, and the distant hills of Cornwall, fading into the blue horizon, form a fine contrast to the neighbouring headlands, which appear rough with rocks, and indented with the excavations left by mining.

In the Church of LAMERTON, about two miles north-west of Tavistock, is an ancient monument of the *Tremains*, with the effigies of two brothers of that family, twins, christened Nicholas and Andrew, of whom Risdon relates the following remarkable particulars. "They were so like in all the lineaments, so equall in stature, so coloured in haire, and such resemblance in face and gesture, that they could not be knowne the one from the other, noe not by their parents, brethren, and sisters, but privately by some secret marks, and openly by wearing some jewel, coloured ribands, or the like; which in sport they would sometyme change, to make tryall of their friends' judgment: yet somewhat more strange was, that their minds and affections were as one; for what the one loved, the other desired; and so on the contrary, the loathing of the one was the disliking of the other: yea, such a confederation of inbred power and sympathy was in their natures, that, if Nicholas were sick and grieved, Andrew felt the like pain, though far distant and remote in their persons, and that without any intelligence given to either partie. And it was also observed, that if Andrew were merry, Nicholas was so also, although in different

Digitized by Google

places, which long they could not endure to be, for they ever desired to eat, drink, sleep, and wake together. Yea, so they lived, and so they died together; for in the year 1564, they both served at New-Haven, (in France,) where the one being slaine, the other stept instantly into his place, when in the height of danger, no persuasions able to remove or hinder him, was there also slaine.

About three miles north-east of Lamerton, is *Bren-Tor*, a huge mass of craggy rock, which shoots up from the road between Tavistock and Lydford, and becomes a very conspicuous sea-mark to mariners in the British Channel, though more than twenty miles distant. The summit is frequently enveloped in clouds; but in clear weather commands a very extensive and interesting prospect; and the ships in Plymouth Harbour can be distinctly seen. Near the top is the parish Church of the little village of Brent, which, like most other churches in similar situations, is dedicated to St. Michael; a practice, observes Mr. Warner, "which seems to have arisen with our ignorant ancestors, from a confusion of the two ideas of dignity and elevation; this saint being the chief or head of all the angelic bands." The occasion of the edifice having been erected on this spot, is, by tradition, referred to a storm, which greatly endangered the safety of a vessel in which a merchant was returning to his native country with considerable wealth. In a moment, when destruction seemed inevitable, the merchant made a vow, that if Providence should preserve his life, he would erect a church on the first land he saw. Soon afterwards, the tempest abated; and this Tor presenting itself as the vessel approached the western coasts of the Island, was chosen as the site of the intended building. "The wild appearance of the country around this spot prevented it in former times from being visited by strangers; and so trifling was the intercourse between it and the populous and more cultivated parts of England 200 years ago, that Fuller, in his Worthies, describes the inhabitants of a village near this church as a lawless tribe, wild as the ancient Scythians."*

LYDFORD is a poor decayed village, consisting of a few ragged cottages, situated about seven miles north of Tavistock. It was

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

BRENT TOR, AND CHURCH,
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

was formerly a place of consequence; and Prince states, that this "ancient town and borough was the largest parish in the county, or the kingdom, and that the whole forest of Dart belonged to it; to whose parson, or rector, all the tythes thereof are due. 'Tis said that this town, in its best strength, was able to entertain Julius Cæsar at his second arrival here in Britain; but anno 997 it was grievously spoilt by the inhuman Danes. Recovering again, it had, in the days of the Conqueror, 122 Burgesses." This is still the principal town of the Stannaries, wherein the court is held relating to those causes." It appears, from the Domesday Book, that Lydford and London were rated in the same manner, and at the same time. Lydford formerly sent members to Parliament; but was excused from this burthen, as it was then considered, by pleading *propter paupertatem.* Some remains of its ancient importance may still be seen in a square tower, or keep of a castle, which was formerly used as a court and a prison, where those criminals were tried and confined, who offended against the Stannary Laws. This building is alluded to in the following lines by Browne, whom we have already noticed at Tavistock.

"They have a castle on a hill;
I took it for an old windmill,
The vanes blown off by weather;
To lie therein one night it's guest,
'Twere better to be ston'd and prest,
Or hang'd—Now choose you whether."

The tower is situated on a mound of earth, which forms the eastern side of an entrenched area. The banks are high, and disposed in a square form, nearly similar to those at Plympton: on the south-western side the ground slopes very quick into a deep narrow valley.

The scenery round this village is singularly picturesque and romantic; but the most prominent objects of curiosity and admiration are, the *Bridge*, and two Cascades. The former bears great analogy, in situation and character, to the celebrated Devil's Bridge in Wales. It consists of one rude arch, thrown across a narrow rocky chasm, which sinks nearly eighty feet from the level

Digitized by Google

of the road. At the bottom of this channel the small river Lyd is heard rattling through its contracted course. The singularity of this scene is not perceived in merely passing over the bridge: to appreciate its character, and comprehend its awfully impressive effects, it is necessary to see the bridge, the chasm, and the roaring water, from different projecting crags which impend over the river. At a little distance below the bridge, "the fissure gradually spreads its rocky jaws; the bottom opens; and, instead of the dark precipices which have hitherto overhung and obscured the struggling river, it now emerges into day, and rolls its murmuring current through a winding valley, confined within magnificent banks, darkened with woods, which swell into bold promontories, or fall back into sweeping recesses, till they are lost to the eye in distance. Thickly shaded by trees, which shoot out from the sides of the rent, the scene at Lydford Bridge is not so terrific as it would have been, had a little more light been let in upon the abyss, just sufficient to produce a *darkness visible*. As it is, however, the chasm cannot be regarded without shuddering; nor will the stoutest heart meditate unappalled upon the dreadful anecdotes connected with the spot."*

Scenes of this description frequently give rise to marvellous stories; and Lydford Bridge has furnished many themes for the gossip's tongue. It is related, that a London rider was benighted on this road, in a heavy storm, and, wishing to get to some place of shelter, spurred his horse forward with more than common speed. The tempest had been tremendous during the night; and in the morning the rider was informed that Lydford Bridge had been swept away with the current. He shuddered to reflect on his narrow escape; his horse having cleared the chasm by a great sudden leap in the middle of his course, though the occasion of his making it was at the time unknown.

Two or three persons have chosen this spot for self-destruction; and in a moment of desperation, have dashed themselves from the bridge into the murky chasm. The scene is in itself highly terrific; and with these awful associations, has an extraordinary

2 effect

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

effect on the feelings. About half a mile south of the bridge is the first *Cascade,* formed by the waters of a small rivulet, which rises on the moors in the neighbourhood; and at this spot unites with the Lyd. The fall is not very considerable in its usual quantity of water; but, like most mountain streams, is greatly augmented by storms, when a large sheet rushes over a rocky ledge, and throws itself down a perpendicular precipice of above one hundred feet. But though the cascade is a pleasing and interesting part of the scene, this single feature is almost lost in contemplating the whole of the portrait. Looking towards the castle, a combination of singularly interesting and picturesque objects are observed. The two side screens are thickly mantled with hanging woods, interspersed with the grey-crested rock, and folding one behind another as they recede from the eye; whilst in the middle distance are seen the mossy tower of the parish church, and the embattled castle. Beyond these is a ridge of the Dartmoor Hills, whose tops are often immersed in the fleeting clouds; and beneath the feet of the spectator is seen the river Lyd winding through its narrow channel.* About half a mile east of Lydford is the second Cascade, called *Skaits Hole.* This is properly the fall of the Lyd: and though the water is not precipitated so far as in the other cascade, yet it flows in a greater volume. The water is impelled through a yawning ragged fissure in the rocks, and falling in one broad sheet, it rattles along a stony channel till it arrives at Lydford Bridge. There are many other scenes in the neighbourhood, which will amply gratify the landscape painter, and furnish several fine studies for his pencil: but he must not expect to meet with comfortable accommodations nearer than Tavistock.

" Within the precincts of Dartmoor, in a valley under the granite mountains, about five miles from Tavistock, is a copper mine, called *Huel Friendship:* though not more than twenty-three fathoms in depth, it has a rich vein of ore. The *matrix* is a caple, in the composition of which argillaceous earth seems to be predominant; and the *country* is for the most part killas. In the same

* The annexed Print will illustrate this description; and convey a more correct idea to the mind of the reader.

Digitized by Google

vein with the ore, a singular species of cubic mundic, having very concave surfaces, is found. We discovered some small crystals of this substance imbedded in what the miners call *peach*, a soft kind of chlorite, nearly allied in composition to killas. The latter, perhaps, is no other than the chlorite schiefer of Werner, and its varieties seem to be produced by the gradations between it and the *thon schiefer*, or argillaceous slate. The direction of the lode in this mine, is from east to west; and the dip, or inclination, to the north, making a difference of about five feet in a fathom. About forty men are employed, exclusive of the cleaners and dressers. The ore is generally sold in Cornwall, and smelted in Wales: it is of the yellow, or pyritical sort; galena frequently accompanying it. About one mile eastward from the copper mine, are two tin mines, *Huel Jewel*, and *Huel Unity*. The depth of neither of these is so great as that of Cornish tin mines in general. The ore is in black irregular crystals; the direction of the lode is the same as that of Huel Friendship. Near the mines are furnaces for roasting the ore."*

. The extensive waste called DARTMOOR present smany objects interesting to curiosity. It was originally made a forest by King John, and its bounds were set out by perambulation in the reign of Henry the Third. From its higher parts innumerable streams descend, and taking various directions, spread fertility and beauty through a considerable portion of the country. Its surface is also diversified by vast masses of granite, which, springing up from various points, are distinguished by the name of *Tors*, and may be seen at the distance of many miles. The principal of these are High Tor, Bellever Tor, Hessary Tor, Steeperton Tor, Ham Tor, Mist Tor, Row Tor, and Crockern Tor.

Crockern Tor has been long celebrated as the place where the Stannary Parliaments of this county held their meetings: and Mr. Polwhele, from this, and other circumstances, imagines it to have been a seat of British judicature even prior to the Invasion of the Romans. " Exposed," he observes, " as it is, to all the severities of the weather, and distant, as it always hath been within the memory

* Maton's Observations on the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

mory of man, from every human habitation, we might well be surprised that it should have been chosen for the spot on which our laws were to be framed, unless some peculiar sanctity had been attached to it in consequence of its appropriation to legal or judicial purposes, from the highest antiquity. On this Tor, not long since, was the Warden's or President's chair, seats for the jurors, a high corner stone for the cryer of the court, and a table, all rudely hewn out of the rough moor-stone of the Tor; together with a cavern, which, for the convenience of our modern courts, was used in these later ages as a repository for wine. Notwithstanding this provision, Crockern Tor was too wild and dreary a place for our legislators of the last generation, who, after opening their commission, and swearing the jurors on this spot, merely to keep up the old formalities, usually adjourned the court to one of the Stannery Towns. From the nature of this spot, open, wild, and remote, from the rocks that were the benches, and from the modes of proceeding, all so like the ancient courts, and all so unlike the modern, I judge Crockern Tor to have been the court of a cantred *(a district, or number of townships)* or its place of convention, for the purposes of the legislature."

Many of the Tors, from their peculiar forms, and the apparently artificial arrangements of the craggy rocks in their vicinity, have been attributed to Druidical origin; and circles, cairns, and cromlechs, have been fancied in almost every rude congregation of stones. These speculations seem for the most part erroneous; though there are undoubtedly some arrangements of stones on Dartmoor, which owe their original formation to ancient rites, or were appropriated to certain usages, whose history is involved in mystery and fable.

About four miles east from Tavistock, and close by the road which leads from that town to Moreton-Hampstead, are several *Circular arrangements* and *rows of stones*, the origin of which is unknown. The tradition prevails, that they were collected and disposed in particular forms at a time when a dreadful plague raged at Tavistock, and that the inhabitants resorted to this place for provisions. The farmers bringing their marketable commodi-

Digitized by Google

ties, and placing them on certain stones, retired to a distance, when the purchasers took the goods, and left money in their place. Several of these stones are erect, and some are placed in two double parallel rows, with circles attached to them; and each double row, or avenue, is terminated with a single upright stone. These rows are about three feet asunder, extending nearly three hundred yards in length. On the southern side are a cairn and a fallen cromlech. The spot chosen is a dry level part of the moor, which seems to have been cleared of all the stones, except those used in the circles and in the rows.

Though few vestiges of British antiquity remain in Devon, yet there are some which have been usually included in that class. DREW-STEIGNTON was probably the principal place of Druidical ceremony in the county; and the name of this parish, and stone relics which still remain, are strong evidences to that effect. At this place were circles and a cromlech; the former are thus described by Mr. Polwhele.* "Somewhat south of the Druid way, or *via sacra*, at Drew-Steignton, are two curious *Circles*, contiguous to each other, on the descent of the hill. The first circle is marked by a vallum, which on the outer part declines, and is about four feet high. Though the greater part of the stones which were erected on the top of the mound are gone, and the stones that remain are deep sunk in the ground, yet, from these relics, we can easily trace out the whole of the circle. The stones composing its circumference were placed at equal distances. The area is quite clear; and the diameter is ninety-three feet. Contiguous to this is another circle, nearly of the same size. One vallum in the point of approximation serves for both. On Quarnell-Down, between Quarnell Tor and Sharper Tor, there are a number of Druidical circles. One of these circles incloses a *kistvaen*, or a stone sepulchral chest. It originally consisted of eleven stones erect, nine of which are standing, and two are fallen. It is of an elliptical figure; and the area of it measures ten feet by eight. In the centre of it is this kistvaen; which is a cavity inclosed by side stones pitched on end, measuring in the clear four feet by three, and covered by a cap-

* Historical Views of Devonshire, Vol. I. p. 63 and 64.

Digitized by Google

cap-stone. These side stones are placed at right angles, and have plain surfaces; and the covering stone is five feet long, four feet wide, and three feet deep. Within that curious amphitheatre in the parish of Manaton, called *Grimspound*, are no less than twenty circles; not one of which exceeds a land yard in diameter. They all seem to have been formed by stones erect; but in each circle, where the pillars have fallen, or disappeared, the circumference is distinctly marked by heaps of small stones. Some of the pillars which lay on the ground, plainly point out their original station, and might easily be replaced. At present there are only two perfect circles, one of which consists of thirty-five pillars; the other of twenty-seven. In both circles the pillars are placed at equal distances; and there are six circles, each of about twelve feet in diameter, in contact with each other. The wall that incloses these twenty-six circles is ninety-six yards round. It was built with rough moor-stone, without cement. In several places where it is entire, it is six feet in height, and of the same thickness. But it is in general in ruins, and a mere heap of stones. From the east part of this circular mound to the west, are twenty-two land yards; and from north to the south, twenty-eight. There is an entrance on the east side of this amphitheatre, and another on the south-west of it; and at each entrance there is an appearance of a flat pavement."

The *Cromlech* at Drew-Steignton has given origin to long dissertations both by Chapple and Polwhele, on the origin and uses of this species of monument: but after what has been stated in our Second Volume, page 389, it will be unnecessary to enlarge on these subjects. This monument consists of three large upright stones, supporting a fourth. These are in the middle of an inclosed field, on a farm called Shilston, and are known in the neighbourhood by the name of Spinster's Rock.* Mr. Polwhele, after describing this cromlech, says, "Towards the west of it, I remarked several

* Borlase and Chapple contend, that cromlechs, in general, consist of *three* upright stones and an impost; but this is not the fact: they are *more frequently* composed of four uprights and an impost; and are often formed with five and six uprights.

Digitized by Google

conical pillars, about four feet high. On the south side there are three standing, in a direct line from east to west. The distance from the more western to the middle was two hundred and twelve paces; from the middle to that on the east, one hundred and six; just one half of the former; by which it should seem, that an intermediate pillar at least had been removed. In a parallel line to the north are two others, remaining erect, the one from the other distant about fifty-two paces, nearly one fourth of the greatest space on the opposite line. The area between is ninety-three paces; in the midway of which, at the eastern extremity, stands the cromlech."

At a little distance south of the Cromlech is a singular *Logan*, or *Rocking-Stone*. It is seated in the midst of the river Teign, which rolls its waters over a rocky channel in this part of its course. A steep and lofty ridge of mountain rises immediately south of the river, from whose sides many massive fragments of rock have tumbled into the stream. "It is poised," says Polwhele, "upon another mass of stone, which is deep grounded in the bed of the river. It is unequally sided, of great size; at some parts six, at others seven, feet in height, and at the west end, ten. From its west to east points it may be, in length, about eighteen feet. It is flattish on the top, and seems to touch the stone below in no less than three or four places; but probably it is the gravel which the floods have left between that causes this appearance. I *easily rocked it* with one hand; but its quantity of motion did not exceed one inch, if so much. The equipoise, however, was more perceptible a few years since. Both the stones are granite, which is thick strewn in the channel of the river, and over all the adjacent country. It seems to have been the *work of Nature*. On the brow of a hill, near the same river, at Holy-Street, in the parish of Chagford, is another *Logan-stone*. It is not so large as that at Drew Steignton, is more easily moved, and rocks more. The scenery around the Drew-Steignton Logan-stone has an uncommon grandeur. The path that leads to it from the river Teign winds along beneath the precipitous hill of Piddle-Down. The hill rises majestically high: and at the greatest distance is seen a channel

Digitized by Google

nel like a stream-work, evidently formed by the floods, which have washed down, in many places, the natural soil into the river, and left it bare and rocky, or sandy. In the parish of Withecombe, between Withecombe Church and Rippen Tor, there is a *Logan-stone* of a roundish form, measuring eleven feet in diameter. It is called the *Nutcrackers;* having been the resort of the common people during the nut season for the purpose of cracking their nuts." The granite stones of Dartmoor abound with *Rock-basons:* many of which are to be found in the upper stones of the Tors.

Of the ancient habitations of the Britons, " Dartmoor," says Mr. Polwhele, " perhaps, might furnish us with some remains. There are a great number of round structures scattered over this extensive moor. They are built with stone, and in general resemble the British houses in their dimensions, as well as the rotundity of their form: but, unfortunately, they are all roofless; the bare walls only remain; and these walls are, for the most part, in a very ruinous condition. Towards Whiston's Wood these houses seem to be in a less dilapidated state; and here, as in several other places on the moor, they lie contiguous to each other, so as to suggest the idea of a village or town. The common notion is, that they were erected to secure the flocks and herds of the Dan-monians against wolves,* and other wild beasts which infested the country. But a great part of Dartmoor was probably peopled in ancient times; and tradition concurs with probability in settling this opinion. All the inhabitants of the skirts of the forest relate, as a certain fact, that ' the hill country was peopled, whilst the vallies were full of serpents and ravenous beasts.' The forest was once full of trees; and as the Britons invariably preferred the woods to the plains, there is no doubt but they erected many fortresses on the sylvan heights of Dartmoor. Indeed, the round walls

* The wolf is commonly said to have been destroyed in this county, as well as in other parts of England, by the exertions of King Edgar. This, however, is a mistake; as it appears, by the grant of liberties from King John to the inhabitants of Devonshire, that the wolf was not even in his reign extirpated in this county: and from Hooker, it should seem, that even in Elizabeth's reign this animal existed here.

Digitized by Google

walls I have just noticed, admitting that they were mere pens for flocks, would tend to prove the habitation of Dartmoor; since the Britons, like the Arabs, had always apartments for their cattle near their own. In Whiston's Wood, then, and in the ruinous cabins around it, we may contemplate the features of a Dammonian Clanship."*

The ancient tracks over Dartmoor are marked by high stones, placed about a mile asunder, and just discernible from each other in fine weather. These, before the new roads were made, were all the directions the traveller had to guide him over the desolate waste; and if once lost sight of, either through inattention, or the thick fogs which sometimes arise, could scarcely ever be regained, and the tired wanderer was frequently immured in the swamps during a vain search for his proper path.

The inhabitants who live on the skirts of the forest, generally attain an extraordinary age; "though it might naturally be imagined," says Dr. Maton,† "that so wet, exposed, and uncomfortable a district, must be unhealthy. They reckon themselves *middle-aged* only when they arrive at *sixty;* and 'it is no very uncommon thing,' we were informed, to hear the death of a man of seventy years of age, spoken of as if premature."

On one of the highest parts of the moor is *Cranmeer-Pool*, "the mother," says Risdon, "of many rivers." This is a lake in the bosom of an extensive morass, wholly impassable in winter, and even in summer extremely dangerous, the ground surrounding it shaking to the extent of many yards. Among the other rivers that derive their origin from this pool, is the Dart.

The royalty, or Park of GIDLEIGH, is situated on the north-eastern borders of Dartmoor. This, in the time of the Conqueror, was the inheritance of the *Prouzes*, and seems to have been acquired by ancient grants from the Crown, (in which Dartmoor was vested,) to its subjects, of parcels of this waste, under certain reserved annual quit-rents: that of Gidleigh is 3l. 13s. 4d. which is

* History of Devonshire, Vol. I. p. 143.

† Observations on the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

is still paid every year, at the court appointed to receive the same. The Park is an extensive tract of rocky ground, fruitful only in rabbits, but curious from the singularity of its appearance. Three of its sides are protected by a stone wall; the fourth is bounded by the river Teign, with which the Park unites by a very steep descent, the face of which is studded by enormous rocky protuberances, whose level summits display many of the excavations termed Rock-basons. The roaring stream at the bottom of this descent, the wooded front of the bold bank that rises on the opposite side, and the vast masses of rock on either hand, grey with moss, or dark with ivy, render this part of Gidleigh Park a scene very striking to the imagination.* From the Prouzes the Manor descended to the *Gidleys*, and from them, by marriage, it passed to its present possessor, " who is called Rathery."†

CHAGFORD

Is an ancient market-town, situated near the Teign, at the foot of some high hills, whose romantic forms render the scenery peculiarly picturesque. Before the Conquest, the Manor was held by Dodo, the Saxon; but afterwards it was given, by the Conqueror, to the Bishop of Constance, in Normandy. In the reign of Henry the Third, it was held by Hugh de Chagford, Knight, from whom it passed through various families to Sir John Whyddon, who was one of the Justices of the King's Bench in the time of Queen Mary, and lies buried in Chagford Church. It now belongs to a farmer, named Coniam.‡ The charter by which the privilege of a market and two annual fairs was granted to this town, was destroyed by a fire towards the latter end of the seventeenth century. Chagford is one of the Stannary towns, and we believe the place where the mining concerns are principally transacted. The number of inhabitants in this parish, according to the late return, was 1115; of houses 267.

MORETON-

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties.

† Polwhele. ‡ Ibid.

Digitized by Google

MORETON-HAMPSTEAD

Is situated in a very romantic spot, on a gentle eminence, bounded on every side, but the west, by high hills. The face of the country in the vicinity is strewed with scattered fragments of rocks; some of which are so large, and so singularly piled on each other, as to give the idea of buildings ruined by an earthquake. The town is populous, and has an extensive woollen trade. Its police is regulated by a Portreve, and other Officers, who are elected annually, at the court-leet of the Lord of the Manor, the present Viscount Courtenay. The inhabitants of the parish, as enumerated under the late act, amounted to 1768; of these 805 were males, and 963 females: the number of houses was 459. The inhabitants, from their recluse situation on the confines of Dartmoor, speak a peculiar dialect; and have also a peculiarity in their manners, which, to a stranger, appears very singular. Many of the working class are employed in the manufacture of woollen yarn and serges for the East-India Company.

GREAT FULFORD, the seat of Baldwin Fulford, Esq. is in the parish of Dunsford, and about nine miles south-west of Exeter. This estate has been in the Fulford family from the time of Richard the First, when it was called "*Villa de Fulford.*" The mansion is one of the most ancient in the county, and still retains much of its original character. It stands on a rising ground, near an extensive sheet of water, and is built in the quadrangular shape, having a large entrance gateway, over which are the family arms quartering those of Fitz-Wise, Moreton, Belston, Bozom, St. George, Dennis, St. Aubyn, and Shallons. The apartments are numerous and large; many of them are fitted up in a handsome style, and embellished with several fine and curious paintings. Some of these are in the great Hall, which is also ornamented with a variety of carved work. Among the pictures are the following. A full length of CHARLES THE FIRST, who is represented seated in his royal robes, by Vandyck. This portrait was given to Sir Francis Fulford by the Monarch. A large picture of the Battle of

Digitized by Google

GREAT FULFORD HOUSE.

The Seat of Baldwin Fulford Esq.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

of Gravelines, in 1558. Two whole lengths of MR. and MRS. FULFORD, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. A Battle Piece, by Wouvermans: and two pictures by Berghem. Fulford House was garrisoned in behalf of Charles the First, and is supposed to have sustained considerable injury during the time of the Civil Wars; as the Republican troops raised entrenchments in the park, and besieged the house. Like many of the large ancient mansions, this had its private domestic chapel, which is still preserved in a perfect state: and the present worthy proprietor is also actively employed in improving the appearance of the house and grounds. Some of the Fulford family distinguished themselves among the superstitious Crusaders; and others have been celebrated at the bar and in the field. Sir William Fulford was the Judge, who, with Gascoigne, sentenced Archbishop Scroope to be beheaded. Sir Thomas Fulford, son of Sir Baldwin, commanded a part of Queen Margaret's army, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Towton Field, and beheaded in 1461. The Park abounds with a variety of forest trees, and presents a great inequality of surface, which combining with many views of distant country, renders the scenery greatly diversified and interesting.

DREW-STEIGNTON, though now only a village of inconsiderable extent, is supposed, as we have already stated, to have been the chief seat of Druidism in Devon. This supposition is not only strengthened by the ancient vestiges in its vicinity, but also from the etymology of its name, which, in the opinion of Mr. Polwhele, signifies, *the Town of the Druids upon the Teign.* Risdon, however, and Sir William Pole, deduce it from another source. "The first parish," says the former, "that taketh name of Teign river, is Drew-Steignton, which honoreth the name of its ancient landlord, Drogo de Teign, by time's continuance mollified into *Drewe:*" the latter observes, that "Teignton-Drewe both gave and took the name of the possessor thereof in Henry the Second's time; he was called Drewe or Drogo de Teign." In the Domesday-Book, Drew-Steignton is called *Taintone;* and it appears, from that record, to have been held, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, by a person named *Offers;* and in the time of the Conqueror, by Baldwin, the Sheriff.

Digitized by Google

Sheriff. It afterwards came into the possession of Drogo de Teign, mentioned above, whose successors appear to have been the *Dabernons*, one of whom held it of Lord Hugh Courtenay, by the service of half a knight's fee. From this family it passed through various hands to the *Carews* of Cornwall, and has been sold by R. P. Carew, Esq. of Anthony, to his tenants, the Messrs. Donsfords, and Mr. John Bragg:*

The scenery on the banks of the Teign, in this parish, is peculiarly attractive. To instance one of the wildest spots, says Mr. Polwhele,† "where the Teign runs at the base of the *Moving Rock*, we descend into the valley amidst vast masses of granite, and looking back from the brink of the river, see them, as it were, bursting asunder, and only prevented from falling by their chains of ivy. In other places, enormous ledges, overshadowed by oaken foliage, appear like the ruins of a castle. This is particularly the case in the vicinity of the *Cromlech;* where the berry of the mountain ash, here remarkably luxuriant, has a beautiful appearance from chasms of rock, incrusted with pale moss. The views from this spot are delightful: the eye reposes with pleasure on the richness of the woods of Whyddon, after contemplating precipices that seem ribbed with iron, and follows the receding hills, wave after wave, till they are lost in azure."

WHYDDON PARK, near Chagford, formerly the seat of the Whyddon family, displays several fine views, arising from the combination of its woody and rocky scenery. The situation of the house, like that of many of the ancient mansions in this county, is injudiciously chosen; though at no great distance behind, is one of the most beautiful prospects in the vicinity of the Teign. "The rocks are immense, and shaded, for the most part, by the dark umbrage of some magnificent oak trees, which, throwing their giant arms over these hoary piles of stone, form an association highly interesting to the imagination."‡ Whyddon Park is a royalty, and appears, like Gidleigh, to have been originally a part of Dartmoor.

Bradford.

* Polwhele's History of Devon, Vol. II. p. 68. † Ibid p. 69.

‡ Warner's Tour.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Engraved by W. Wilkinson from a drawing by [illegible]

for the Beauties of Scotland & Wales

OAKHAMPTON CASTLE.
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

Bradford-Pool, about three miles westward of Drew-Steignton, and long esteemed, by the inhabitants of the surrounding country, as a curiosity, was formerly a tin mine, and has been once or twice drained, in hopes of renewing the works to advantage. When full, the pool is nearly half a mile in circumference, and about one hundred yards wide in the middle, it being of an oval form; its banks are a gradual slope of wood, and rocky ground. The last time it was drained, was by an adit, or level, about a mile in length, driven from the channel of the river Teign, which was so increased by the waters of the pool, as to overflow its banks. A shaft was then dug in the bed of the pool to the depth of 120 feet; but the tin-ore obtained, not being equal to the expectations of the adventurers, the undertaking was abandoned, and the shaft is now filled with water to the level of the adit.

OAKHAMPTON, OR OKEHAMPTON,

Is an ancient town, situated in a recluse valley, surrounded by hills, and deriving its name from the river Oke, which flows through it. At the time of the Domesday Survey, it was held by Baldwin de Brioniis, a Norman, whose exertions in the service of the Conqueror, were rewarded by the office of Hereditary Sheriff of Devon, and a large grant of land in the western parts of the county, which he constituted into the Barony of Oakhampton, and built a Castle here for his principal residence. This Castle is mentioned in the Domesday Book, which also records, that the town had then a market, and four Burgesses. In the reign of Henry the Second, the Barony of Oakhampton became invested in Reginald de Courtenay, by his marriage with Hawise, the descendant and co-heiress of Richard de Rivers, eldest son of Brioniis. In the seventh of King John, Robert, the son of Reginald and Hawise, "gave 500l. and five palfreys, to have livery of the Honour of Okehampton, his mother's inheritance, which contained ninety-two Knight's fees, and a third part."*

The

* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. p. 79.

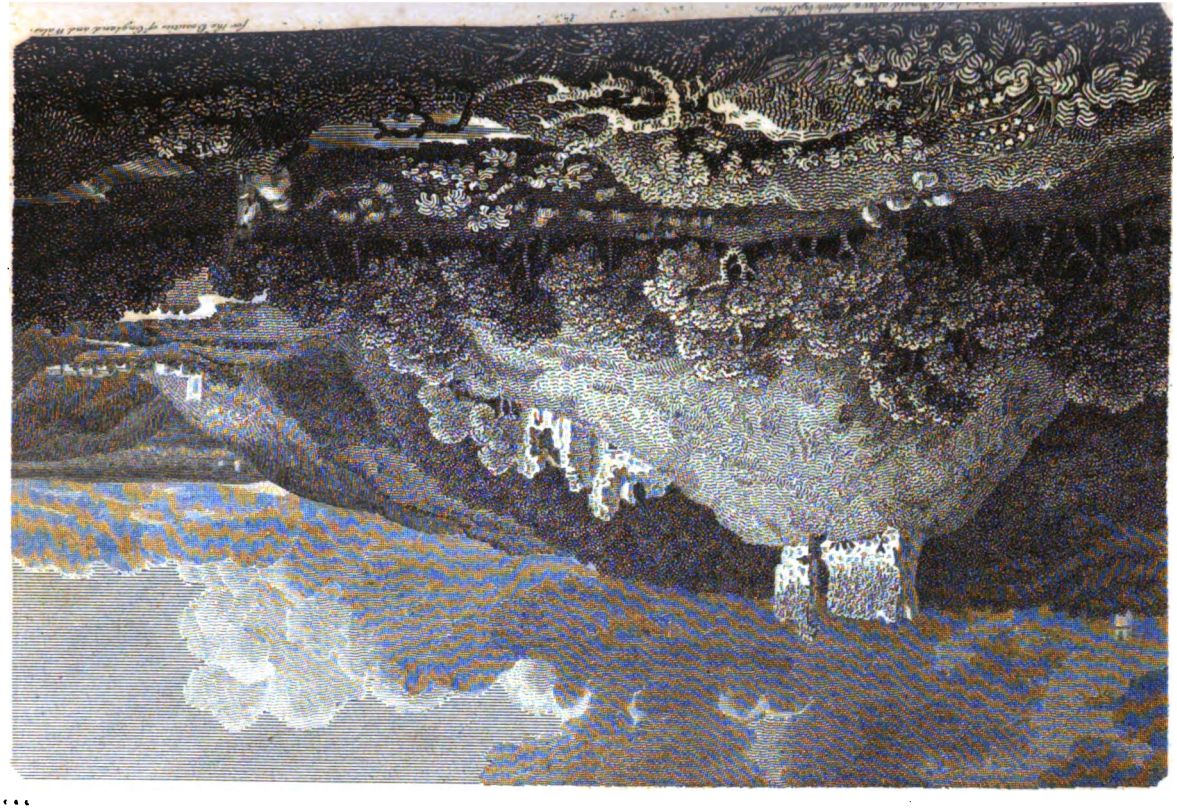
Digitized by Google

The firm attachment of the Courtenays to the cause of Henry the Sixth, rendered them the objects of his rival Edward's rancour, and Earl Thomas was beheaded at Pontefract, after the battle of Towton-Field, in the year 1461. Great part of his possessions were granted to Humphrey Stafford, Knight, afterwards created Earl of Devon, who, like his predecessor, was brought to the block. This was in the ninth of Edward the Fourth: and in the same year, the Honour and Manor of Oakhampton was granted to Sir John Dynham, who held them but a short time; George Duke of Clarence, the King's brother, being in possession within two years afterwards. On the attainder of this Nobleman, it reverted to the Crown; "and Oakhampton Castle continued to be a Royal fortress till the reign of Henry the Seventh, who, on ascending the throne, restored the Courtenay family to its honours, distinctions, and estates; and to this Barony among the rest: but his relentless successor having discovered a secret correspondence between Henry de Courtenay and Cardinal Pole, by one act of tyranny, deprived Henry of his head; and by another of senseless barbarism, reduced the magnificent Castle of Oakhampton to ruins, and devastated its noble and extensive Park."* Edward Courtenay, son of Henry, dying without issue, at Padua, his estates were divided among the descendants of the four sisters of his great-grandfather; and Oakhampton Castle became the property of the *Mohuns;* from whom, by intermarriage, or purchase, it descended to Christopher Harris, Esq. of Heynes, who represented this borough in Parliament in the twelfth of Queen Anne.

The ruins of the Castle are situated about one mile south-west of the town, on a high mass of rock, which rises from the verdant meadows of the valley, and is skirted on one side by the western branch of the river. "The extensive area which they include, the solidity of their structure, and the advantages of situation, prove that this fortress, before it was dismantled, must have been strong and important. A lofty keep rises magnificently from a large conoidal elevation, which is opposed on the other side of the stream by a steep wooded bank. The river meanders through the intervening

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

intervening meads, and laves with its waters the roots of the ruined walls."* The whole of the surrounding scenery is exceedingly pleasing, the acclivities being covered with fine woods, which, in combination with the mouldering turrets, and ivy-clad ruins, of the castle, form some very picturesque views. The woods to the south are included within the precincts of Oakhampton Park, which is now in the occupation of Mr. Holland, the architect of Drury-Lane Theatre.

The Church, like the castle, is situated on an eminence, at some distance from the town, and from the opposite heights makes a fine feature in the landscape. Within the town there is no building deserving particular notice, except, perhaps, an old Chapel in the Market-place, originally founded as a chantry, and now belonging to the Corporation. The inhabitants derive their chief support from the manufacture of serges, and the expenditure of travellers; the turnpike-road from Exeter to Launceston, Falmouth, &c. passing through the town.

Oakhampton, though made a borough previous to the Conquest, was not incorporated till the reign of James the First. By the charter then granted, its government is vested in eight principal Burgesses, from whom the Mayor is annually chosen; and as many Assistants, from whom the principal Burgesses are elected. Previous to the acceptance of this charter, the Portreve was the chief officer; but the charter investing the Corporation with the power of making bye-laws, it was provided by one of the first acts, in the year 1623, that, in future, "the Mayor for the time being should be presented to the homage, to be chosen Portreve also, for the year of his Mayoralty." Thus were the feudal and corporate offices united in the same person; a junction, that, with only one exception, has continued to the present time. The earliest return to Parliament from this borough, was made in the twenty-eighth of Edward the First; the second was in the seventh of Edward the Second. It afterwards intermitted sending till the year 1640; when the privilege was restored, and has since been regu-

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

larly exercised. The right of election is in "the freeholders and freemen, being made free according to the charter and bye-laws:" the number of voters is 182. The population of this parish, according to the report made under the late act, amounted to 1430; of these 660 were males, and 770 females: the number of houses was 269.

BRATTON, OR BRACTON, a small village about eight miles south-west of Oakhampton, is celebrated by the antiquaries of this county, as the birth-place of HENRY DE BRACTON, an eminent Civilian of the thirteenth century. By indefatigable study, he attained great proficiency in his knowledge of the Common Law; and was by Henry the Third made one of his Itinerant Judges. He died in the reign of Edward the First; but the first edition of his works on the Laws and Customs of England was not printed till the year 1569.

WERRINGTON, a seat of the Duke of Northumberland, is situated on the western side of the river Tamar, but is included within the boundaries of Devonshire. This estate was formerly possessed by a Sir Francis Drake, who sold it, in 1651, to Sir William Morrice, a kinsman of General Monk's. These gentlemen were very active in effecting the Restoration of Charles the Second, on whose landing at Dover, Mr. Morrice received the honor of knighthood. He was afterwards appointed Secretary of State; but preferring country retirement to courtly intrigues, in 1668 he retired to his seat at this place, and built himself a handsome Library, which was well filled with books. He died in 1676, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. A descendant of Sir William's sold Werrington to the late Duke of Northumberland, who bequeathed it to the present Nobleman. The House boasts nothing extraordinary in its architecture; but the situation is particularly fine, commanding a richly diversified and expansive view of a well-wooded park, the windings of the river Aire, and the Dartmoor Hills, &c. in the distance. On the most elevated grounds in front of the house, are two structures, intended as architectural ornaments: one is an artificial ruined castle, and the other a triumphal arch. Near the house is the Parish Church, an elegant modern structure.

Digitized by Google

HOLDSWORTHY

Is a small market-town, near the western borders of the county, situated between two small streams which fall into the Tamar at a little distance. The number of houses, according to the late returns, was 204; of inhabitants 1045: the chief employment of the latter is derived from the operations of agriculture.

HATHERLEIGH,

An ancient market and borough-town, but not possessed of the privilege of sending Members to Parliament, is a small inconsiderable place, situated on a branch of the river Torridge, near its confluence with the Oke. The houses are principally built with red earth and thatch, and have a very mean appearance. The manor anciently belonged to the abbey of Tavistock; by one of whose abbots, a large plot of common land was given for the advantage of the borough nearly four centuries ago. The government of the town is vested in a Portreve, two Constables, and other inferior officers, who are annually chosen at the Court held by the Lord of the Manor. The inhabitants are principally employed in agriculture, and the woollen manufacture. Their number, as returned under the late act, was 1218; that of houses 219.

Jasper Mayne, a dramatic writer and divine of the seventeenth century, was born in this town, and received the rudiments of his education at Westminster School. He then removed to Christ Church, Oxford, where, in 1646, he was made Doctor in Divinity; but, through taking a very active part in favor of Charles the First, was expelled two years afterwards. On the Restoration, he was re-instated in his preferments, and advanced to a canonry of Christ Church; in the choir of which edifice he was buried in the year 1672, at the age of 68. He was much celebrated for his wit and humour; and has displayed these accomplishments with considerable effect in his comedies of the City Match and Amorous War. He was also the author of several poems and sermons.

Digitized by Google

TORRINGTON, OR GREAT TORRINGTON,

As it is called to distinguish it from a village of the same name, is a place of considerable antiquity, denominated, in old records, *Cheping Toriton;* "so named," says Risdon, "doubtless of the ancient market there kept; for *Chepan*, in the Saxon tongue, is as much as to *buy*." Previous to the Conquest, Editha, mother of Earl Harold, had her dower of lands in this tything; and at the period of the Domesday Survey, the manor was divided between the Crown, Baldwin, the Sheriff, Ralph Paynell, Ausgerius, and Odo, the son of Camalyn.

The town is finely situated, partly on the summit, and partly on the declivity, of a noble eminence, which forms the eastern bank of the river Torridge. On the south side are some slight vestiges of an ancient castle, the origin of which is unknown; though, according to Risdon, it was the head of a *notable* Barony, which continued from the Conquest to the time of Edward the First: and of the "honour of the Castle," he observes, "many knight's fees were held." Its site is now used as a bowling-green, and commands an exceedingly fine prospect. The river is here seen to flow in a graceful current along a narrow valley, inclosed by grand sloping ridges; and having a beautifully wooded back-ground. The lands of the barony passed into divers families; but in "process of tyme, this manor came to the Crowne; and Queen Mary gave it to her servant James Basset, whose son sold the same unto Sir John Fortescue, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lanchester, and a Privy Counsellor."*

Torrington was formerly invested with the privilege of having representatives in Parliament; but no return has been made since the reign of Henry the Sixth. Its government is vested in a Mayor, eight Aldermen, and sixteen Burgesses, who act under a charter granted by Queen Mary. The town principally consists of one long street, "indifferently beautified with buildings, very populous, and flourishing with merchants, and men of trade."† The chief

* Risdon. † Ibid.

Digitized by Google

chief employment of the inhabitants arises from the woollen manufacture. To this parish belong two Churches; the most ancient of which is furnished with a Library. In the town are some ancient alms-houses, possessing the right of commonage on an extensive piece of ground, given by William Fitz-Robert, Baron of Torrington, in the reign of Richard the First. Here is likewise a Charity-school for thirty-two boys. The number of the inhabitants of the parish is 2044; of these 865 are males, and 1179 females: the number of houses is 374. Mary, Countess of Richmond, and mother of Henry the Seventh, resided some time in Torrington, and was a considerable benefactress to it. The views from the two bridges in the vicinity of the town are extremely picturesque.

At FRITHELSTOKE, a village opposite Torrington, on the west side of the Torridge, are the ruins of a Priory, which was founded by Sir Roger Beauchamp, in the reign of Henry the Third, for secular Augustine canons, removed from Hartland Abbey; but, in the fifteenth of Edward the First, as appears by an inquisition then taken, the manor of Frithelstoke was given, by Robert Beauchamp, to canons of the order of St. Gregory. At the Dissolution, its annual revenues were valued at 127l. 2s. 4d. The site of the priory is now a farm-yard. The chief remains of the buildings are the walls of two or three apartments, that seem to have been those of the prior; the west window of the conventual church, which still continues perfect; and the great gate.

HARTLAND, OR HERTLAND,

Is a small town, governed by a Portreve, at the north-west corner of the county, situated in a bleak district, which terminates northward with the promontory called Hartland* Point, and is

* "In the old authors we find Hartland Promontory called *Promontorium Herculis;* an appellation that originated, according to Dr. Stukeley, from the Tyrian Hercules having arrived here at the head of a colony. That the Phenicians might have visited this spot, and that they might have named it after the great

bounded to the south by some boggy heights, where the rivers Tamar and Torridge have their source. The market is much frequented, particularly by the fishermen of Barnstaple, Bideford, and other towns on the coast, who find good shelter from the south-westerly winds under the rocky eminences which skirt the shore. The Church is situated about one mile from the town, on a lofty eminence near the sea. It is a large and handsome building, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel, which is divided from the body of the church by an ornamented screen. The houses in this parish, as returned under the late act, amount to 287; the inhabitants to 1546; most of whom are employed in agriculture.

HARTLAND ABBEY, the seat of Paul Orchard, Esq. Member of Parliament for Callington, is situated in a narrow vale, the sloping sides of which are richly mantled with hanging woods. The Mansion was rebuilt by the present proprietor from designs by Mr. Mathews, and includes the site and some portion of the ancient abbey. The cloisters were quite perfect, and are introduced as the basement story of the eastern and western fronts of the house. On a flat part of the mouldings over the arches of the cloister, was an inscription in very old characters, which is still preserved in the eastern front; importing, that the cloister was built of different colored marble, at the expence, and during the abbacy

great hero of their nation, is far from being improbable. In supposing, however, that Hercules himself made a voyage to Britain, we should not only *embody* what many learned men have made a mere emblem, (denoting the course of the sun through the twelve signs of the zodiac,) but even, if such a personage did ever exist, render his life still more marvellous than it has been represented by the most fabulous writers. He must have visited the *Rock* named after him in Campania; the *Haven*, in Liguria; the *Grove*, in Germany; and the *Promontories*, in Mauritania and Galatia, as well as in Britain. It is most rational to conclude, that all these spots obtained their appellations rather from having been dedicated to, than actually visited by, the hero; and that his votaries were prompted to pay him particular honors wherever they met with objects of unusual grandeur, or had been successful in exertions of strength and prudence. Our imperfect knowledge of the transactions of the Phenicians, and of the extent of their navigation, may be ascribed to their jealousy of the Greeks, from whom they would cautiously conceal every thing that could guide them to the source of so much profit." *Maton's Observations, Vol. II. p. 65.*

Digitized by Google

abbacy of John of Exeter. Several fragments of richly ornamented mouldings, and a monument of a cross-legged knight, have been dug up here, during the time of making the late alterations.

Hartland Abbey is by Camden, and other writers, said to have been founded by Githa, wife of Earl Godwin, in honor of St. Nectan, by whose merits she supposed her husband had escaped shipwreck. It seems most probable, however, that she only placed *secular* canons in the church of Stoke St. Nectan, near the abbey, and settled prebends on them. At the time of the Conquest, the *Dynants*, who took their name from, and were lords of, Dynant in Brittany, obtained the lands at Hartland, which had possibly belonged to Harold, son of Earl Godwin. Geoffrey Dynant, in the time of Henry the Second, as appears by the charters in Dugdale, conveyed the church of St. Nectan, of which he was patron, to Richard of Poitiers, the Archdeacon, in order that he might establish an abbey there for *regular* canons of the order of St. Augustine.

The distinction between regular and secular canons, was, that the regular canons had a house, in which they lived together, subjected to some monastical rules; whereas the secular canons, like modern prebendaries, though bound to serve particular churches, and possessed of prebends, had seldom any conventual house, or were compelled to the observance of settled rules. Till the canons of Stoke were made regular canons, it does not appear that they had any conventual building; and Geoffrey Dynant was the first that gave lands for that purpose. A rent of sixty shillings had been reserved to the Lords of Hartland, payable by the secular canons. Geoffrey Dynant, on changing the canons, released this rent, and also gave them the tythes, the patronage of the church, the several chapels, and the lands called *Bekaton*. This seems to have been his first donation, as it is mentioned in Henry the Second's charter. The change also of the canons secular, to regular canons, is said to have been made by the authority of Bartholomew, Bishop of Exeter, who held that See from the year 1151 to 1184. Afterwards, that is between the time of Henry's charter, and a charter of confirmation granted by King John in 1189,

Digitized by Google

Geoffrey Dynant had settled on them other chapels and lands: and Oliver Dynant, the brother of Geoffrey, had conveyed to the above Archdeacon of Poitiers, the possessions called Marcadine and Scepelwell, in order that he might erect a *Church*, and *other conventual buildings for the canons*. Several other persons had, at this time, also given them lands; and these latter gifts appear to have been made and confirmed to the abbot and canons themselves, as a settled and regular body; and not to the Archdeacon, as a sort of trustee for them.

Sir William Pole mentions, that Oliver Dynant, father of Geoffrey, had been engaged in a sort of rebellion against Henry the Second, but was afterwards reconciled, and received into favor. Now, as the canons were appointed at the request of this King, and were to pray for his soul, it seems probable that Geoffrey Dynant founded the abbey as a propitiation for his father's offence; and that previous to the year 1184. If there had been any house before this, there would have been no reason for the charter's mentioning that the lands were given for erecting a convenient house or buildings for the religious. Thomas Pope, the last abbot, surrendered on the twenty-first of February, 1539; and had a pension allowed him of 66l. 13s. 4d. yearly. At this time the possessions of the abbey were valued at 306l. 3s. 2d½. per annum; and were bestowed by the King on John Abbot, Serjeant of his Cellar, who gave it to his nephew. He dying without issue, the estates were divided among his three sisters, who married into the families of Luttrell, Risdon, and Lower. The abbey became the property of the former, but passed to the *Orchards* by the marriage of the heiress of the Luttrells with the father of the present possessor.

CLOVELLY is a small village, situated on a romantic steep adjoining the sea; and is the most celebrated place on this coast for the herring fishery. The *Giffards* were the ancient lords of this manor; but in the time of Richard the Second, it was sold to Sir John Cary, Knt. by whose family a small harbour and pier were made. It is now the property of Sir James Hamlyn, Bart. who resides in this parish, at CLOVELLY COURT, a neat mansion, erected

Digitized by Google

erected on the site of a more ancient structure, that was consumed by fire about thirteen years ago. The views from the house and grounds are extremely grand. Above the cliffs, to the south-east of the village, are the remains of an encampment, called *Clovelly Dikes*. These works are of a square form; but when constructed, or by what people, is unknown.

LUNDY ISLAND,

SITUATED nearly four leagues north-west of Clovelly, is rather more than three miles long, and about one in breadth. It contains about 2000 acres; and is environed by high and steep rocks, which render it inaccessible, except in one or two places. The only safe landing-place is on the east side, where a small beach admits a secure approach, and is sheltered by a detached portion of rock, called the *Isle of Rats*. On landing, the visitor is obliged to climb over various craggy masses, before he can reach the steep and winding tract that leads to the summit, which commands good views of the English and Welsh coasts.

About 400 acres only are in cultivation; 300 of which are arable, and the rest pasture: wheat is the chief produce. The elevated situation of the land, in some places 800 feet above the sea, and the violence of the north-east winds, prevent any trees from growing here, though a considerable sum was expended a few years ago in planting. Rabbits, though not of the best quality, are numerous; yet by no means so abundant as formerly, the rats having destroyed great quantities. Muirs, and the usual rock-birds, are very plentiful; and in the season, lobsters, crabs, mackerel, and other fish, may be obtained in abundance; woodcocks and starlings also resort hither in great numbers; and about 400 head of sheep, and 80 head of cattle, are fed here; but the former do not thrive. The inclosures are stone fences.

This island was probably more populous than at present, as many human bones have been ploughed up; "and the furrows," says Camden, "show it to have been once cultivated." Its present cultivation was wholly effected during the last century. Of its

Digitized by Google

its history very little is known: Risdon relates, that one Morice, who had conspired to kill Henry the Third, at Woodstock, retired to this isle, and, by turning pirate, did great damage, on which the King sent over, and had him executed on an elevated part; and Sir Thomas More mentions, that Edward the Second, during the period in which he was hurried, by his disaffected nobles, from one part of the kingdom to the other, had thoughts of retiring hither for safety.

About the middle of the last century, it was purchased of Government by a Nobleman, who entrusted the care of it to a person named Benson, a notorious smuggler. This man, though a Representative in Parliament, finding it admirably adapted to his vocation, having obtained possession, refused again to surrender it, and for some time carried on an illicit traffic in tobacco, and other articles. Being at length detected in making false insurances, guilt urged him to a precipitate flight; and he went to Lisbon, where it is understood he assumed the order of priesthood.

The next proprietor of this island was Sir John Borlase Warren, who built a small house on it, and appears to have let the ground on leases of twenty-one years, which are now about expired. Sir John sold it, about the year 1781, to John Cleveland, Esq. the present Member of Parliament for Barnstaple, for the sum of 1200l. but, as appears from some of the public prints, it has been lately re-purchased by Government.

The whole rent of the island is 70l. per annum. No taxes are paid; nor can it maintain any revenue officer, the duties in seven years scarcely amounting to 5l. The number of houses is only seven: and that of inhabitants, in the year 1794, was not more than twenty-three. The winds are violent; but not cold in proportion, even in winter; and the place is healthy.

The chief antiquities are what is termed Morisco's Castle, and the ruins of St. Anne's Chapel. The Castle is near the south-east end, and was strongly fortified with large out-works and a ditch: a few old dismounted cannon occupy the battlement, beneath which is a curious cavern. In the reign of Charles the First, Lord Say and Seale held the castle for the King; and in the time

Digitized by Google

time of William and Mary, the French surprised it by stratagem, and plundered and kept it for some time.

YEO VALE, about four miles south-west of Bideford, is an ancient seat, which formerly belonged to the *Giffards* and *Carys*; but is now the property of the Rev. Thomas Hooper Morrison, by whose father it was purchased about thirty years ago; and who made many improvements in the house and grounds. In a small chapel which stood before the mansion, and has been lately pulled down, was a tombstone with the following inscription. *Orate pro animâ Wilhelmi Giffarde Arm: qui obiit 22d die Decembris, A. D.* 1400, *cujus Anime propitietur, &c.*

LANCRAS, OR LANDCROSS, is a small parish, beautifully situated on a peninsula nearly surrounded by the streams of the Torridge and the Yeo. It now belongs to Lord Rolle, but was formerly the property of the *Giffards*. The last owner of that name, is by tradition said to have been a Catholic lady, who having ruined herself by supporting a falling religion, at last received parochial relief. The celebrated GENERAL MONK, or MONCK,* is commonly supposed to have been a native of Potheridge, near Torrington; yet as Lancras was undoubtedly the place of his baptism, it is not improbable that it was also the place of his birth. The following is a copy from the Register: *Anno Regni Regis Jacobi Sexto* 1608 *eodem anno undecimo die Decembris baptisatus est Georgius Monck, filius Thomæ Monck, Equitis.*

BIDEFORD,

AN ancient sea-port, market, and borough-town, though not at present possessed of the privilege of being represented in Parliament, is situated on the east and west banks of the river Torridge, which is here of considerable breadth, and with spring tides rises to the heighth of eighteen feet. The greatest part of the town is built on the declivity of a steep eminence, on the western side of the river; the other part lies at the foot of a hill on the opposite side.

* Some particulars of this General are inserted in Vol. I. p. 48; and in p. 94 of the present Volume.

Digitized by Google

side. Many of the houses have a mean appearance; being erected of timber, brick, or mud, and covered with bad slate or thatch; but the streets are mostly of a good breadth; and from their sloping situation, much cleaner than those of sea-ports generally are.

Though no mention of Bideford appears in any known record previous to the Conquest, the etymology of its name is a proof that it existed in the Saxon times. *Bi*, signifying *situated*, and *ford*, are Saxon words, and evidently the derivatives of *By-the-ford*, *By-de-ford*, and *Bideford;* in all which ways the name of the town has been written. This etymology is the more certain, as there is even now a fording-place a little above the bridge, and which in former times was the common passage for travellers. After the Conquest, Bideford was bestowed, in conjunction with Kilkhampton, in Cornwall, on Richard de Grenaville, a Norman Knight, who accompanied the Conqueror to England, and was ancestor to the illustrious family of the Granvilles,* who for upwards of five hundred years continued to be the proprietors of the lordship.

On

* The brave Sir Richard Granville, who conquered Glamorganshire in the reign of William Rufus, and the no less valiant Sir Richard Granville, who perished of the wounds he received in an engagement with the Spaniards, were both of this family; as was also Sir Bevil Granville, who bravely fell in the cause of Charles the First, at the Battle of Lansdown. The remarkable battle between Sir R. Granville and the Spaniards is thus related in Watkins's Essay towards a History of Bideford.

"In 1591, the English Court having intelligence that the rich fleet which had continued in Spanish America from the fear of being captured by Sir John Hawkins and Sir Martin Frobisher, was on its return to Europe, it was determined on, to send a strong squadron for the purpose of intercepting it at the Western Islands. This fleet consisted of seven ships, of which Lord Thomas Howard was Admiral, and Sir Richard Granville Vice-Admiral. The Spanish Court hearing of the English design, fitted out a fleet of fifty five of their best men of war, to meet and protect the American ships.

"The English Admiral was informed of the approach of this formidable armament in the afternoon of the 31st of August, while he lay at anchor under the island of Flores; and immediately after receiving the intelligence, the enemy appeared in sight. The English squadron was greatly inferior to the Spaniards in numbers, and near half the men on board were ill of the scurvy. In consequence of this disproportion, Admiral Howard weighed anchor directly,

Digitized by Google

On the death of William Henry Granville, third Earl of Bath, in 1711, the family estates were divided among his co-heirs, and many of them were soon afterwards sold; but the manor of Bideford was not disposed of till about the year 1750, when it was purchased by John Cleveland, Esq. whose son is the present owner.

Bideford,

rectly, and put to sea, being followed by the rest of his squadron. Sir Richard Granville, in the Revenge, was the last that weighed, on account of his waiting for several of his men who were on shore. The Admiral, and the other ships, gained the wind of the enemy with great difficulty; and Sir Richard not being able to do it, was advised by the master to cut down his main-sail, and heave about, trusting to the sailing of his ship, the Seville squadron being already on his weather-bow. But he refused to turn his back on the enemy, saying, 'That he would much rather die, than leave such a mark of dishonour on himself, his country, and the Queen's ship.' Abiding by this heroic determination, he was soon surrounded by the enemy, and his single ship engaged with the whole Spanish fleet of fifty-three sail, having ten thousand men. In this extraordinary fight, which began about three in the afternoon, and lasted till the break of day the next morning, Sir Richard repulsed the enemy fifteen times, though they alternately changed their vessels and men.

"At the commencement of the action he received a wound; but he would not quit the deck till eleven at night, when having received another wound, he was constrained to be carried down to be dressed. While this was doing, he was wounded by a shot in the head, and the Surgeon killed by his side. The English now began to want powder; their small arms were totally destroyed; and out of the ship's crew, which at the beginning of the action consisted but of one hundred and three, forty were killed, and nearly all the rest wounded; the masts were all shot away; so that nothing but a hulk was left above water.

"Sir Richard then advised the remainder of his company to trust to the mercy of God, rather than to that of the Spaniard, by blowing up the ship. To this the master-gunner and several of the mariners agreed; but the rest opposed it, and the ship was surrendered. Sir Richard was removed into the ship of the Spanish Admiral, where, though every attention was paid to him, he died of his wounds in three days. His last words were, 'Here die I, RICHARD GRANVILLE, with a joyfull and quiet mind; for that I have ended my life as a true soldier ought to do, fighting for his country, Queen, religion, and honour: my soul willingly departing from this body, leaving behind the lasting fame of having behaved as every valiant soldier is bound to do.' The loss of the Spaniards in this contest consisted of four ships, and above a thousand men."

Digitized by Google

Bideford, though described as a borough-town in a charter granted by one of the Granvilles in the reign of Edward the First, and afterwards represented in several parliaments, was a place of so little consequence in the time of Leland, that he only mentions its river and bridge, the latter of which he terms a "notable work, fairly waulld in on each side;" and Camden does little more than speak of it as "remarkable for its populousness." In the time of the latter antiquary, however, it must have advanced to some importance, as it began to participate in the newly-opened trade with America and Newfoundland; and Queen Elizabeth, by the interest of the Granvilles, granted it a charter of incorporation. By this charter, the government of the town was vested in a Mayor, five Aldermen, seven capital Burgesses, a Recorder, Town-clerk, and two Sergeants at Mace; and its inhabitants are empowered to hold a weekly market, and three annual fairs.

Through these, and other privileges granted by the charter, the trade of Bideford extended; but its more rapid increase was owing to the patronage of Sir Richard Granville, who, with his kinsman, Sir Walter Raleigh, had discovered Virginia and Carolina; and after two other expeditions to America, had fixed his residence at this port. The trade and population of the town continuing to augment, a new charter was obtained in the year 1610, which, after confirming the liberties granted by Elizabeth, enlarged the number of Aldermen to seven, and that of Burgesses to ten; and invested the Common Council with the privilege of making bye-laws. The Mayor and Recorder for the time being, and one of the Aldermen, (to be chosen by the rest of the Corporation,) were also constituted Justices of Peace within the borough.

In the time of the Civil Wars, the inhabitants of Bideford very early declared for the Parliament, and a fort was erected on the highest ground on each side the river, so as to command both that and the whole town. A small fort was also raised at Appledore, which effectually secured the entrance of the rivers both to Bideford and Barnstaple. The success of the insurgents, however, was not equal to their zeal; for, on attempting to relieve Exeter, they received

Digitized by Google

received a severe defeat, the particulars of which are nearly thus related by Mr. Watkins.*

"In the summer of 1643, Prince Maurice of Bohemia, with Sir John Berkley, at the head of a considerable army, invested Exeter; to preserve which, the friends to the Parliament were extremely solicitous, and none more so than those of Bideford, and the adjacent parts. To accomplish this desirable purpose, the Parliament forces at Barnstaple joined those of Bideford, which was then garrisoned by a considerable force, under the command of a Colonel Bennet. Sir John Berkley being informed of their intentions, dispatched a regiment of horse, and some other troops, to impede their march, under the command of Colonel John Digby, who fixed his head quarters at Torrington, where he was soon joined by a regiment of foot from Cornwall; so that his army consisted of 300 horse, and between 600 and 700 foot. Had the Parliament forces, which consisted of 1200 foot, and 300 horse, marched against the Royal army before it was strengthened by the Cornish regiment, they would in all probability have been the conquerors; but they wasted their time in *preaching*, *praying*, and *seeking the Lord;* till at length, after assurances of certain victory from their preachers, they marched out of Bideford on the morning of the second of September, to attack the *Philistines* at Torrington.

"Colonel Digby having received information of their march, advanced to receive them at a little distance from the town; but, after waiting some hours, and seeing no appearance of the enemy, he considered it as a false alarm, and therefore dismissed his troops to their quarters, except a guard of 150 men. In less than an hour, however, he received information that the enemy were within the distance of half a mile; and immediately hastened to the spot where he had left his cavalry, and waited their approach in the morning. He did not then intend to engage the insurgents, but merely to keep them in play till his whole force was collected; but having divided his small body of horse into parties, and distributed them into several little closes, from which there were gaps into

* Essay towards a History of Bideford.

Digitized by Google

into the more open space occupied by the enemy, he was directly attacked by a party of fifty men, which obliged him to collect his own party, and come to action. The contest was but short; for, through his admirable presence of mind, and undaunted courage, the rebel detachment were so well received, that they threw down their arms, and retreated to the main body.

"The Colonel having succeeded thus fortunately, pursued his advantage, pushed forwards upon the enemy, who were attacked with such fury by his men, that they gave way on all sides, and fled with the utmost precipitation. The whole glory of this victory was enjoyed by the Colonel's guard of horse, the foot only coming up in sufficient time to join in the pursuit. 'The action was so vigorous,' says Lord Clarendon, 'that the swords of the Royalists were blunt with slaughter, and they were overburthened with prisoners.' The fugitives who escaped, told their friends, according to the language of the times, strange stories of the supernatural horrors and fears that fell upon them; and that none of them saw above six of the enemy who engaged them. The next day, September the third, Bideford, Barnstaple, and the fort at Appledore, surrendered to the Royal army, upon the promise of pardon, and the usual articles of capitulation, which the Colonel saw punctually observed; and, much to his honor, preserved the town free from plunder and violence."

In the year 1646, Bideford was ravaged by a plague, which appears to have been occasioned by the landing of a cargo of Spanish wool, an article which, at this period, constituted a principal part of the trade of the town. About the middle of the year 1682, an occurrence took place at Bideford, that strongly marks the deplorable ignorance of the age, and the fatal effects which credulity and superstition have upon the human mind. Three poor and friendless old women, named, Temperance Lloyd, Mary Trembles, and Susannah Edwards, were accused of *witchcraft;* and so direct and positive was the evidence given against them by their prejudiced neighbours, that, after several long and singular examinations before the magistrates of Bideford, they were committed to Exeter gaol; and being soon afterwards tried, were condemned, and

Digitized by Google

and executed on the twenty-fifth of August. These were the last sufferers under the detestable statutes enacted against the supposed crimes of sorcery and witchcraft; statutes to which many helpless persons had fallen victims in different parts of the kingdom. Among the remarkable circumstances attending this case, was the confession of the prisoners themselves, that many particulars of the accusation brought against them were true. This confession, which nothing but extreme imbecility of mind could have induced, and the most lamentable weakness have believed, was made the ground of their conviction; and even on the scaffold, the deluded sufferers assented to its general truth."*

The foreign commerce of Bideford continued on the increase till about the commencement of the last century, when its export trade to Newfoundland was only exceeded in the number of vessels it employed by two other ports in the kingdom; and its import trade by one only. The neglect, however, shown by the Government to colonial purposes during Queen Anne's wars, occasioned a stagnation in mercantile pursuits, and Bideford suffered considerably; but not more so, perhaps, by this neglect, than through the unwise conduct of administration, which left the coasts

* The particulars of this extraordinary affair were published under the title of "A True and Impartial Relation of the Informations against three Witches; who were indicted, arraigned, and convicted, at the Assizes holden for the County of Devon, at the Castle of Exeter, August 14th, 1682, with their several Confessions." The nature of the evidence may be seen by the following passage, extracted from the information of Elizabeth Eastchant, &c.

"The said informant, upon her oath, saith, that, upon the 2d day of this instant July, the said Grace Thomas, (one of the persons on whom the powers of witchcraft was supposed to have been exercised,) then lodging in this informant's husband's house, and hearing her to complain of great pricking pains in one of her knees, she, this informant, did see her said knee, and observed that she had nine places in her knee which had been prickt; and that every of the said pricks was as tho' it had been the prick of a thorn. Whereupon this informant upon the said 2d of July, did demand of the said Temperance Lloyd, whether she had any wax or clay in the form of a picture, whereby she had pricked and tormented the said Grace Thomas? unto which she the said Temperance made answer, that she had no wax or clay, but confessed that she had only a piece of leather, which she had prick'd nine times."

Digitized by Google

exposed to the depredations of French privateers, who made such a number of valuable prizes in Bideford Bay, that they emphatically termed it the *Golden Bay*.*

From the year 1700 to 1760, the principal article of importation was tobacco; greater quantities of which were, in some years, brought into this town than even into London itself. The unfortunate contest with America, however, destroyed this source of profit, and with it, the chief branches of foreign commerce. The number of vessels now belonging to the port is about one hundred: these vary in burthen, from twenty to 250 tons; and are principally employed in the conveyance of coals and culm to the southern parts of the county; in the exportation of oak-bark to Ireland and Scotland; in the herring trade; and in the bringing of fish from Newfoundland. The quay is convenient, being situated near the heart of the town, and the body of water being sufficient to bring up vessels of 500 tons, except at ebb tide, when almost half the channel of the river is left dry. The chief manufacture of Bideford, is that of coarse brown earthenware, the clay for which is obtained from Fremington, near Barnstaple, at the small price of two shillings and sixpence per ton.†

The bridge at Bideford was constructed about the middle of the fourteenth century, and is the largest in Devonshire. It is built with stone, and consists of twenty-four irregular arches, all which are said to have been originally pointed; but, from the repairs made at different periods, several of them are now circular. Its extreme length is 677 feet: the base of each pier is defended from the violence of floods, and other accidents, by a quantity of loose stones confined by stakes. The principal contributor towards the expences of its erection, was Sir Theobald Granville, Knt. but the structure was much forwarded through the conduct of the Bishop of the Diocese, who granted indulgences to those who gave money to aid the work ‡ Various lands have been given to keep the

* Watkins's Essay towards a History of Bideford. † Maton.

‡ The history of the foundation of this bridge is thus related in Prince's Worthies. "At first, the town of Bytheford had no other passage over the river

the bridge in repair, the management of which is conducted by eighteen of the principal inhabitants, under the appellation of Feoffees.

The Church is a spacious building, supposed to have been erected in the fourteenth century: it was originally in the form of a cross; but having been enlarged at different periods, is now extremely irregular. Within it are three galleries, and an organ; the latter was built about the year 1728, at the expence of the Corporation. The monuments are but few, and not particularly deserving of notice. That to the memory of MR. JOHN STRANGE, a native, and Merchant of this town, is reported to have been erected by a Sea-Captain, through gratitude for the relief afforded him after shipwreck by Mr. Strange; whose charity and beneficence is spoken of by the inhabitants in the highest terms of admiration. His humanity was remarkably conspicuous during the time of the plague above noticed; for the Mayor having deserted the town through fear, "Mr. Strange, with a fortitude of mind, and a philanthropy of heart, rarely equalled, took the very difficult and extremely hazardous office upon himself; and, by the prudence and vigilance of his management, prevented the infec-

 tion

river there but by boats; the breadth and roughness whereof upon times was such as did often put people in jeopardy of their lives; and some were drowned, to the great grief of the inhabitants. To prevent which great inconveniences, some did divers times, and in sundry places, begin to build a bridge; but no firm foundation after often proof being to be found, their attempt in that kind came to no effect. At this time Sir Richard Gornard, or Gurney, was parish priest of the place, who, as the story of that town hath it, was admonished by a vision in his sleep, to set on the foundation of a bridge near a rock which he should find rolled from the higher grounds upon the strand. This at first he esteemed as a dream; yet, to second the same with some act, in the morning he went to see the place, and found a huge rock there fixed, whose greatness argued its being in that place to be only the work of God, which not only bred admiration, but incited him to set forwards so charitable a work. Upon this encouragement, he, eftsoons with Sir Theobald Granville, Knt. Lord of the Land, an especial furtherer of, and a great benefactor to that design, began the foundation of the bridge where it stands now." The Bishop who assisted in promoting the design, appears to have been Grandison.

Digitized by Google

tion from spreading to so great a degree and extent, as in all probability it otherwise would have done. He saw the sick, particularly the poor, properly taken care of, the dead decently buried; the avenues to the town carefully guarded, to prevent the disease being carried into the country; and performed every other office of the good Christian, and the vigilant magistrate."* At length Mr. Strange himself fell a victim to its ravages, and was buried in the Church on the thirteenth of July, 1646: his bust is placed in an oval niche in the upper part of the monument.

Various small bequests, for the use of the poor, have been left by different persons; and a House of Industry has lately been established for their more effectual relief. A Free Grammar-School was instituted here about the commencement of the seventeenth century, in which ten boys, appointed by the Corporation, are now educated. Here is also a small Free School; and a Sunday School supported by subscription, in which the rudiments of education are taught to a considerable number of children. The Market-Place is spacious; and the Town-Hall is a large convenient building, having two prisons beneath it, for criminals and debtors: it was erected in the year 1698. The number of inhabitants in this parish, as returned under the population act, was 2987: of these 1303 are males, and 1684 females: the number of houses was 606.

THOMAS STUCLEY, a descendant of the celebrated Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell, and a very singular character, was a native of this town; to which, after studying some time in the Inner Temple, he retired; and living a very recluse life, endeavored to discover the quadrature of the circle, and the perpetual motion. His attention to abstract studies, divested him of every inclination to go out of his house, and at length he became hypochondriacal, and, by cherishing ideas that he should either die of want, or of some epidemic disorder, committed various eccentricities. His clothes were always in a very ragged and filthy condition; and he would never wear new ones, through fear of infection. From the same cause, and a dislike to company, he would never permit the

* Watkins's Essay, &c.

Digitized by Google

the visits of any person; and even his own brothers and sister were strangers to him. Whenever he vouchsafed to receive any money, it was always put into a bason of water, where it remained some hours; and afterwards, he either concealed it in some obscure corner of his house, or added it to the heap of gold and silver which he kept in his bed-chamber; and through which, by frequently walking backwards and forwards, he had made two paths, which continued so till his death. He died about the year 1738, at the age of fifty-seven.

John Shebbeare, M. D. and an author of some eminence, was born at Bideford, in the year 1709. He was educated under the learned Zachary Mudge, who was then Master of the Grammar-School, and at the age of sixteen, was apprenticed to a Surgeon and Apothecary. On the expiration of his apprenticeship, he commenced business for himself; but acquired very little celebrity till the year 1754, when he became known as a political writer, having attacked the Ministry with such asperity, in a novel entitled the Marriage Act, that he was arrested, and put into confinement, but soon afterwards released. His attachment to the exiled family of the Stuarts led him into further difficulties; for having commenced a Series of Letters to the People of England, his observations against the House of Brunswick, and the then Administration, became so virulent, that he was prosecuted for a libel, sentenced to stand in the pillory, and to be imprisoned two years. Soon after his release, and the accession of his present Majesty, he obtained a pension of 200l. and from that period employed his abilities in defence of Government. He died on the first of August, in the year 1788. His most celebrated work was Chrysal, or the Adventures of a Guinea.

On *Northam Burrows*, about one mile and a half north of Bideford, is a beach of pebbles, nearly three miles in length, and of very considerable breadth and depth. These appear to have been thrown up by the sea, which of late years has overflowed many acres of land on this shore.

At a small distance above the village of Appledore, near the junction of the Taw and Torridge, is a point called *Hubblestone*;

Digitized by Google

so named, according to tradition, from having been the burial-place of Hubba, the Danish Chieftain, who was slain in attacking *Kenwith*, or *Cynvit*, *Castle*, in the time of King Alfred. The circumstances connected with this event, are thus related by Mr. Gough, in his Additions to Camden. "The brother of Halfdene and Inguar came with twenty-three ships from Wales, (Demetica,) where they had wintered, to Domnania, and falling in with Alfred's men, was slain with 1200 men before Cynvit Castle, (arcem Cynuit,) which being unprovided, and fortified only with *menia erecta nostro more*, being impracticable by situation on every side, but the east, they blockaded, hoping, for want of water, to make it surrender; but the Christians sallying out in despair, drove them to the ships, and took the famous *Raven* standard. The bird in this standard, which was worked in one single noon, *(uno meridiano tempore,)* if it promised victory, appeared as if alive, and flying, *quasi vivas volitans:* if a defeat was to ensue, it hung its wings as motionless, *penderet directe nihil moveus.*"* Kenwith Castle is supposed to be the place now called Henny Castle, in the parish of Abbotsham, adjoining Bideford.

TAWSTOCK, about three miles south of Barnstaple, is the seat of Sir Bourchier Wrey, Bart. in right of heritage from the ancient and noble family of the *Bourchiers*, Earls of Bath, who made this their chief residence. The stately appearance of this place from the great road on the opposite side of the river Taw, from which it borrows its name, affords the greatest pleasure to the traveller, through the singularity of its situation between two verdant hills, richly skirted with forest trees, yet with a bold descent in front to the river, which beautifully meanders through the vale at the distance of half a mile, the boundary hills widening as they descend. This place is mentioned by several authors, as remarkable for taking in at one view, the best manor, best mansion, finest church, and richest rectory, in the county.

The House having been nearly destroyed by fire in 1786, it was partly rebuilt in the Gothic style; and the approaches each way to it, through the woods and park grounds of great extent, much embellished

* Asser Menevensis.

Digitized by Google

embellished by the present proprietor. The Church near it has many handsome monuments of the family, who have been interred there from very early times; this being one of the most ancient places of residence in the county.

Tawstock was possessed jointly in the time of Henry the Second, by William de Brewese and Oliver de Traci, and afterwards inhabited by Henry de Traci, from whom the Lords Martyn, and Audelegh of Hely, possessed it in hereditary succession, until, in failure of male issue, it became, by special entail, the property of Margaret, daughter and heir of the last Lord Audelegh, from whom, by marriage with Fulk Fitz-Warren, it descended to the Bourchiers, Lords Fitz-Warren, and Earls of Bath; and from whom Sir Chichester Wrey, by his marriage with Anne, co-heir of Edward Bourchier, Earl of Bath, inherited, and whose heirs still enjoy it. This family derives an immediate rectilineal descent from the Plantagenet race, by the marriage of Bourchier, Earl of Eu, in Normandy, with Anne Plantagenet, co-heir of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, son of Edward the Third.

BISHOP'S-TAWTON, a little village opposite Tawstock, to the south of Barnstaple, is said to have been the first seat of a Bishop in this county; Eadulphus, or Werstan, and Putta, the first and second Bishops of Devon, having their residence here from the year 905 to 924; when the See was removed to Crediton.

BARNSTAPLE,

A VERY ancient and respectable town, is situated on the eastern bank of the river Taw, in a broad and fertile vale, bounded by a semi-circular range of hills. Previous to the Conquest, it was a Royal demesne; and King Athelstan is said to have constituted it a borough, and to have built a Castle here, near the confluence of the north Yeo with the Taw: of this fortress not any thing remains, but a high artificial mount. At the time of the Domesday Survey, "there were forty Burgesses within the borough, and nine without," and the inhabitants were exempted from serving on any expedition, or paying taxes, but at the same

Digitized by Google

times as Exeter and Totness. *Judhael de Totnais*, on whom the Manor was bestowed by William the Conqueror, founded a small Priory here for Cluniac Monks, which continued till the general suppression of Religious Houses, when its revenues, according to Dugdale, were valued at 123l. 6s. 7d. per annum.

The possessions of Judhael were seized by William Rufus; but William de Braose, his great-grandson, "obtained, temp. Henry II. a purparty of the Honour of Barnstaple; and in the seventh of Richard the First, came to an accord with Oliver de Traci, (son and heir of Henry de Traci, who, in the time of King Stephen, held this Honour by the gift of that King,) the other sharer of this Barony, by which agreement Oliver passed his title to William, on certain conditions, of paying him an annuity of 20l. per annum, &c. But he being banished by King John, this estate came to the Crown: However, his son Reginald de Braose being restored to the good favor of Henry the Third, had restitution of his father's purparty, which appears to have reverted to the Crown at the latter end of Henry the Third's reign. As to the other moiety, viz. of the *Tracys*, it passed, after the death of Oliver de Traci, (which happened in the second of Edward the First,) in marriage with his only daughter, Eve, to her husband Guy de Brienne; who leaving issue, a daughter, named Maud, married to Geffry de Camvile, she was found to be his next heir; whereupon her husband, doing homage, had livery of this Honour, with other lands of her inheritance. Before Maud became wife of Geffry de Camvile, she appears to have been married to Nicholas Martin; and both her husbands enjoyed the Manor in her right: after her demise it descended to William Martin, her grandson,"* who dying without issue, it became the property of his co-heirs; and finally of the Lords Audley, whose male line becoming extinct in the reign of Richard the Second, the entire Manor and Honour became vested in the Crown. Between this period and the reign of Queen Mary, the Manor was re-granted several times, but apparently, only for terms of years, as that Princess

* Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II. p. 309.

Digitized by Google

Princess bestowed it on Thomas Marrow, Esq. of the county of Warwick, whose son sold it to the Chichesters, in whose family it still continues.*

Barnstaple appears to have been incorporated by Henry the First; yet, like Oakhampton, it still retains some traces of feudal jurisdiction; nearly 250 common Burgesses claiming a prescriptive right of voting with the Corporate Officers for Members of Parliament. This right they deduce from the time of King Athelstan, and continue to exercise it, independent of the charters that have been granted to the town by different Sovereigns. The Corporation consists of a Mayor, two Bailiffs, two Aldermen, twenty-two Common Councilmen, and other Officers. The number of voters is about 260. The privileges of the town were confirmed and ratified by a charter granted by James the First, in the eighth year of his reign. The first return to Parliament was made in the twenty-third of Edward the First.

This town is one of the neatest and most reputable in Devon: the streets are spacious and regular, and the buildings generally good. "The woollen trade, formerly carried on here," observes Mr. Warner,† "with considerable spirit, threw a large sum of money into the town, and enabled its inhabitants to beautify it with many very respectable houses: this trade has of late failed; but baize, silk-stocking, and waistcoat manufactories, still give life to the place. Besides this source of wealth and population, the pleasing character of the country around, and the comparative cheapness of this part of England, have added to its inhabitants, by inducing many independent families to settle here entirely; a circumstance that renders Barnstaple by far the most genteel town in North Devon. It boasts, indeed, some of the marks of a metropolis; balls every fortnight, and a regular theatre; and nothing is wanting to render it completely agreeable, save a decent pavement, the streets being now studded with little oval pebbles. A noble Quay stretches along the river side to a great length, terminated at one end by a handsome piazza, over the centre of which stands the statue of Queen Anne, with the following inscription:"

ANNA

* Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II. p. 312.

† Warner's Walk through the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

ANNA
INTEMERATÆ FIDEI TESTIMONIUM ROBERTI ROLLE,
DE STEVENSTONE, AGRO DEVONIENSI, ARMIG.
1708.

The River here spreads to a considerable breadth; but, from the great increase of sand in its channel, the port is but shallow, and vessels of greater burthen than 200 tons cannot enter. Over the river is a stone bridge of sixteen arches, which tradition reports to have been built by one of the Tracys, when that family were lords of the town. The Church is a spacious building, having a handsome spire, and being furnished with a good organ: before the Reformation it contained several chantries.

"The town of *Berdenestaple*," says Leland, "hath been waullid; and the walle was in cumpace, by estimation, half a mile: it is now almost clene down. The names and manifest tokens of the four gates yet remain: the suburbs be now more than the town." Over the North Gate is a Charity School, for the education of indigent boys and girls. Besides this, here is a celebrated Grammar School, which has been established about three centuries, and is famous for having been the place wherein the rudiments of learning have been taught to several distinguished characters, among whom were John Jewel, Bishop of Salisbury, author of the *Apologia Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ;* his great theological antagonist, Thomas Harding, Professor at Louvain; the Poet Gay; and the learned Dr. Musgrave. Near the North Gate is a pleasant walk, called the Northern Hay, which, from the fine prospects it commands, forms a very agreeable promenade. The number of houses in this parish, as enumerated under the late act, was 653; that of the inhabitants, 3748; of these 1495 were males, and 2253 females.

JOHN GAY, the celebrated author of the Beggar's Opera, and other esteemed pieces, was born in the vicinity of Barnstaple in the year 1688. As his family were but in low circumstances, his education was confined to the Grammar School; yet here he imbibed such a taste for literature, that he was incapable of other pursuits; and, by his vigorous talents, and amiable disposition, soon recommended himself to the acquaintance of several eminent persons.

Digitized by Google

persons. Poetry was his chief study; and his first piece, entitled *Rural Sports*, was well received; yet its success not being sufficient to recruit his exhausted finances, he became depressed in mind; but was happily relieved from an enervating despondency, by the attentions of the Duchess of Monmouth, who appointed him her Secretary. He soon afterwards wrote his *Trivia;* and the year following, his *Pastorals;* and having attained considerable reputation for his abilities, he attended the Earl of Clarendon to Hanover, as Secretary to the Embassy. In 1720, his Poems were published by subscription; but the sum they produced was wholly lost by the South Sea scheme. This calamity preyed on his spirits, and nearly affected his life. On his recovery, he wrote the tragedy of the *Captives;* and not long afterwards his famous play of the *Beggar's Opera*, which was acted more nights without intermission than any piece before produced. He died in December, 1732, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

ILFRACOMB,

THE most northerly town in Devonshire, is seated on the coast in the hundred of Braunton, and is a rich and populous sea-port. It derives considerable trade from the herring fishery in the Bristol Channel. The peculiar situation and safety of the harbour, occasions many vessels to put in here, when it is dangerous for them to enter the mouth of the Taw for Barnstaple. In consequence of this circumstance, many merchants of the latter place transact their business here. Nature and art seem to have jointly combined in forming the harbour, which appearing like a natural bason, is almost surrounded by craggy heights, overspread with foliage. On three sides the rocks rise in a semi-circular sweep; and on the fourth a bold mass of rock stretches nearly half way across the mouth of the recess; affording protection to the little cove from the northern tempests. This rock rises nearly to a point; and on the top is erected a light-house, which has the appearance of a place of worship. "Along the side of the same rock, to the opening of the harbour, runs an artificial pier, judiciously constructed to prevent the accumulation of sand; so that by the joint assistance of the

Digitized by Google

natural barrier and this piece of masonry, ships of two hundred and thirty tons burthen may ride completely land-locked, and of course perfectly safe from all the violence of the weather. Over the gate of the pier, a stone tablet, with the following inscription, informs us to whom the town is indebted for this valuable addition to its conveniences and advantages."*

"This extensive Pier, built some Years since, by the Munificence of the Bourchiers, Barons Fitzwarine, Earls of Bathe, and Vice-Admirals of the Place, was in the year 1760 partly rebuilt, lengthened, and enlarged, by Sir Bourchier Wrey, Bart. the present Lord and Inheritor of this Pier and Manor."

Previous to the year 1731, the pier was eight hundred and fifty feet long; but the violence of the sea having nearly destroyed it, the Parliament then passed an act for repairing and enlarging it, with the harbour, &c. "A number of good houses, chiefly for the accommodation of strangers in the summer season, range along the side of this harbour, and the remainder of the town stretches for a mile in length to the westward of it. A pebbly shore in the same direction, with some good machines, afford convenient bathing."†

The Church stands at the upper part of the town. It belonged, says Mr. Gough, "to that of Salisbury, and was tenable by a layman." Camden, though prebendary of this place, scarcely notices it in his Britannia. The town contains 455 houses, and 1838 inhabitants, of whom 728 are males, and 1110 females. Its government is vested in a Mayor, Bailiffs, &c. "Here," says Dr. Maton, "we found a singular grit, forming the substance of the rocks, the glittering surface of which led us at first to imagine that they consisted of a fine gneiss. This grit is extremely hard, and heavy, from containing a good deal of iron. Its lamellar fracture, and the preponderance of the magnesian character in its *externa facies*, render it proper to be classed among the rocks allied to killas. In fact, the argillaceous slate prevailing about Ilfracomb, seems, in many places, just about to make a transition into killas."‡

COMBE-

* Warner's Walk through the Western Counties. † Ibid.

‡ Observations on the Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

COMBE-MARTIN "dyriveth its name from the situation beinge a lowe and deepe valley, surrounded with very highe hills, (towards the sea excepted,) and the addition of *Martin*, from Le Sieur Martin de Turon, a man of much worth, and assistant to William, Duke of Normandye, when he conquered this land, of whom he had this with other great possessions given him."* The Martins continued to reside here for two or three centuries, and procured the inhabitants the privilege of a weekly market, which has long been discontinued. The houses extend along the dale at least a mile from the sea-shore. "The scenery of the latter," says Dr. Maton, "is really magnificent; its more prominent parts are singularly striking, and have the happiest accompaniments imaginable. A well-broken, lofty pile of rocks, rises on one side of a little creek, and constitutes the termination of a ridge, deliciously wooded towards the village, and answered by hills of equal boldness opposite. From the brows of the rock hang a few tufts of foliage, spared by the rude blasts of the main; the waves buffet the partial verdure at the base. The road winds down by two or three tempest-torn cottages, which a painter would consider inestimable, as they are exactly on that part of the precipice, where he himself would have placed them for the advantage of his picture."

Combe-Martin was formerly celebrated for its silver mines; or rather from the quantity of that metal obtained by working the veins of galena, that run in numerous courses through the neighbouring hills. "Of the first fynding and working the silver mynes, ther are no certain records remayninge. In the tyme of Edward the First they were wrought; but in the tumultuous raigne of his sonn, they might chance to be forgotten, until his nephew, Edward the Third, who, in his French Conquest, made good use of them; and so did Henry the Fifth: and lately in our age, in the tyme of Queen Elizabeth, ther was found a new lode in the land of Richard Roberts, Gentleman, first begann to be wrought by Adrian Gilbert, Esq. and after by Sir Beavis Bulmer, Knt. by whoes mynerall skill, great quantetie of silver was landed and refined, of which he gave a rich and fayer cupp to the Right Honorable

* Westcott's Manuscripts.

Digitized by Google

able William, Earl of Bathe, whereon was engraven, as I remember, this poesie:

In Martins-Combe long lay I hyd,
Obscur'd, deprest with grosest soyle,
Debased much with mixed load,
Till Bulmer came, whoes skill and toyle
Refined me so pure and cleene,
As rycher no wher els is seene.

And adding yet a farder grace,
By fashion he did inable
Me worthy for to take a place
To serve at any Prince's table.
Combe-Martin gave the use alone,
Bulmer fyning and fashion.

Anno nostræ salutis 1593.
Reginæ virginis, 35.
Nobilissimo Viro Willielmo Comiti Barthon Locum-tenenti
Devoniæ et Oxon.

He gave also another, with a cover, to the Honorable Sir Richard Martin, Knight, Lord Mayor of the citie of London, to contynue to the said citie for ever. It wayeth 137 ounces fine, better than sterlinge, on which thes verses are yet to be seen:"*

When water-workes in broaken wharfe
At first erected weare,
And Beavis Bulmer with his art
The waters 'gan to reare,
Disperced I in earth dyd lye
Since all beginninge old,
In place call'd Comb wher Martin longe
Had hydd me in his molde.
I did no service on the earth,
Nor no man set me free;
Till Bulmer, by his skill and change,
Did frame me this to be.

Anno nostræ Redemptionis 1593.
Reginis Virginis 35.
Richardo Martino militi: iterum majori
Sive Vice secunda Civitatis London.

"The

* Westcott's Manuscripts.

Digitized by Google

"The veins of metal," observes Dr. Maton, "about Combe-Martin, have a direction (like most of those in Cornwall) nearly from east to west, underlying towards the south. They appear just below the surface of the ground, and have therefore been worked with little trouble, and at a trifling expence. The *galena* has yielded from twenty to one hundred and sixty-eight ounces of silver per ton; the same quantity of lead fetching from sixty to seventy pounds. Veins of quartz intersect the killas, (which is of the bluish kind,) and these are covered with a good deal of brown carbonate of iron and ferruginous ochre. Following the course of a ridge eastward of the valley to the sea, we came to a mine of iron worked on the side of the cliffs; this spot is called Hangdown-Hill, and produces a great quantity of argillaceous iron ore. The principal vein is in many places two inches thick, closely walled with killas,* and nearly of the same color. The ground having been thoroughly ransacked and explored near the surface, and, indeed, many yards below it, it can now yield but little lead without deeper workings, and the advantage of adits, &c. for draining off water, which would require a considerable capital, and great encouragement. It has therefore happened, that the villagers have now in a manner relinquished their subterraneous concerns; but they are sanguine in their expectations, and anxious for some spirited exertions being made by the opulent; who seem very averse, in this part of the county, from indulging speculations on mining affairs."†

The *Scenery* in the north of Devon, and particularly those parts which abut on the Bristol Channel, abound with a peculiar wildness

* "From the many observations I have had an opportunity of making on *killas*, I am induced to think that this substance is very nearly allied to micaceous rock, and that the latter may be often found imperceptibly passing into the former. At Combe-Martin we remarked *laminæ* of blue killas terminating in silvery transparent edges, similar, both in texture and appearance, to mica; they adhered to quartz. It would have been a gratifying discovery to have found this vein (as it consisted of two of the constituent parts of granite) communicating with some granitic rocks; but none of the latter appear north of Dartmoor." *Maton.*

† Observations on the Western Counties, 1797.

Digitized by Google

ness of feature, and romantic character. The vallies are sunk into narrow, contracted glens, many of which have a gurgling rivulet running through their bosom; and their steep sides adorned with mantling woods, and beetling rocks. In the centre of some of these a small village is seen crouching beneath the lofty hills; and from many stations, the tumultuous waves are beheld constantly lashing the rocky shores. The roads in this district are more pleasing to the painter than to the traveller; for the latter is continually complaining of their fatiguing steepness, and dangerous inequalities; characteristics that render them interesting to the fancy of the former. One of these, that leads to the village of Linmouth, is described in the following terms by Mr. Warner: "Narrow, rugged, and uneven, it creeps along the face of a prodigious rocky down, that runs with a most rapid descent to the ocean, which is roaring below at the depth of about five or six hundred feet. Formidable as the precipice is, the neighbouring inhabitants have not so much as erected a low wall, or stretched a friendly rail, along its brink, to lend their aid in case of accident or darkness; so that should the traveller's horse become restive whilst treading this perilous path, or he himself mistake the way, nothing could probably prevent his immediate destruction. But this road, so alarming to the stranger, is totally divested of any thing like horror to the Devonian; custom, which reconciles all that is fearful or disagreeable, painful or terrible, to the mind, enables him to travel it with perfect indifference; and whilst I was descending the most abrupt part with the greatest caution, a Devonshire peasant, seated upon a laden horse, and driving three others before him, passed by me down the declivity at the rate of a dashing postillion upon a good turnpike-road."

"Following this path to the bottom of the steep," continues this gentleman, "I suddenly found myself in a village truly romantic; the little sea-port of LINMOUTH crouching at the feet of august rocky hills, which beetle over it in every direction, except where the bottom in which it stands unites with the shore. Unlike the usual formal arrangement of habitations in towns and villages, the houses are not here thrown together into regular groups,

Digitized by Google

groups, or stretched out into rectilinear rows, but sprinkled over the little flat, as if dropped by the hand of chance, and concealed from each other by an abundance of shrubby trees and high hedge-rows. Two alpine brooks, flashing over their craggy beds, rush from deep ravines that open upon the village to the east and south, and threw their waters under two small stone bridges, which, almost hidden in ivy, form happy and appropriate features in this very picturesque scene. A port in epitome lies at a small distance from the village, where the Linmouth oysters, which here sell for two shillings per hundred! are shipped for other places, and necessaries from Bristol imported for the consumption of the place and its neighbourhood." At a short distance west of Linmouth is LINTON, another small village, on a high hill immediately above the former place. The view from the Church-Yard is singularly grand and interesting, presenting prospects of the towering rocky coast, the Bristol Channel, the Welsh mountains, and other objects.

About half a mile north-west of Linton is an extraordinary tract of scenery, called the VALLEY OF STONES, which Dr. Maton has described in the following animated terms, in his Observations on the Western Counties. "Still proceeding along chasm-like hollows, we at length began to ascend, and came to some elevated ground, whence we perceived rocky precipices at a distance, towards the sea, thickly clothed with wood. We had no idea that our road would soon turn suddenly to the left, and conduct us through this beautiful covert. From the summit to the bottom the mountains were overspread with oak, the branches below almost bathing in the briny current of the Severn; their brows were at too great a distance above us to be seen through the foliage. In looking downwards to the shore, our apparent height above the main was increased by the occasional projection of rocks, so that imagination had its full scope in the contemplation of this uncommon scenery. Every step was quite on romantic ground. New features, new embellishments, new combinations, continually rose into view. Our rapture rendered us insensible to fatigue; though we had long been obliged to follow on foot, a

Digitized by Google

devious, indistinct tract, that now sunk with terrific steepness, now ascended with an almost insurmountable perpendicularity. At length wood and foliage vanished entirely; and a scene surprisingly grotesque and wild unfolded itself: a valley, bounded by large naked rocks, or rather fragments of rocks, piled one upon another. The heights on each side are of a mountainous magnitude, but composed, to all appearance, of loose, unequal masses, which form here and there rude natural columns, and are fantastically arranged along the summits, so as to resemble extensive ruins impending over the pass. Vast fragments overspread the valley; and which way soever we turned our eyes, awful vestiges of convulsion and desolation presented themselves, inspiring the most sublime ideas. An old man, mounted on a mule, who passed, and observed our silent wonder, announced to us that we were in the *Valley of Stones*.

"Advancing into this extraordinary Valley, we had a grand view of the Severn through an abrupt opening in the rocks. Taking a retrospect, we caught one of the hills we had passed retiring behind the mountains to the south, but still showing its conical, wood-encircled summit with the most happy effect. A sort of natural pillar presently attracted our notice, mantled venerably with ivy and moss, and thrusting itself forward from the steep with a bold perpendicularity. Surely, we exclaimed, this must be the work of human hands, which have thus piled these huge rocks on each other for some purpose of superstition: the solemnity of the situation, perhaps, appeared to the Druids well suited to the objects of their sacred ceremonies. On close inspection, however, we were compelled to ascribe the architecture to nature alone; for none but herself could have placed the masses so as to preserve the direction of the grain throughout in such a perfect parallelism, or joined them with such nicety. As she is often fantastic in her workmanship, there is no reason why, at the time of some great convulsion, she should have not erected regular columns, and groups of rocks, in the Valley of Stones, as well as among the granite hills of Cornwall, or in the basaltic cave of Fingal. As we proceeded, the acclivities gradually became less broken

Digitized by Google

broken and craggy, and at last assumed an aspect rather verdant and composed. Immense blocks of stone, however, still covered the valley: distance sometimes almost imposed on our judgment, and we were often about to attribute the grotesque arrangements we witnessed, to the efforts of art; but attentive observation always brought us back to a different conclusion: partially counterfeiting design, as if to sport with her spectators, Nature confessed, in a wanton eccentricity, that the distribution was all her own. Traces of cultivation and human industry now obtruded themselves through the broad gap of the valley, and expelled those pleasing ideas of solitude and seclusion which the primæval wildness and silence of these sublime scenes had first inspired. Our attention, engrossed by the novelty of their effect, had not yet been employed on an examination of the nature and composition of the rocks, of which, instead of dwelling on what words can but very faintly delineate, it is now time to mention. They consist of a fine-grained argillaceous grit, of a lamellar fracture, and in some instances friable and loose-textured. The colour is internally a bluish grey, and minute particles of mica may be distinguished throughout the mass; the latter varies extremely both in size and shape.

"The length of this valley is, as I imagine, nearly a mile: in width, towards the village of Linton, (which is situated near its eastern extremity,) it measures full three hundred feet; but not so much at the opposite end, where the gap is very evidently narrower. The first idea that offers itself, in speculating on the origin of this extraordinary pass, is, that it must have been the course of a vast and violent torrent, which, from the broad openings towards the sea, and the more craggy torn surface of the mountains, would seem to have poured itself into the Severn at the western extremity."

CASTLE HILL, the splendid seat of Lord Fortescue, is about three miles north-west of South-Moulton. The Mansion is situated on the acclivity of a finely wooded eminence, whose summit is decorated with the artificial semblance of a ruined Castle, and commands a prospect of very considerable extent. The grounds

Digitized by Google

in front of the House are disposed into various pleasing slopes, which gradually descend from the terrace to a fine sheet of water, and are diversified with stately groves. Beyond the lake, the ground again rises, and the view is terminated by a handsome triumphal arch, erected on the top of a hill. Various other ornamental buildings are scattered through the Park, which presents some very pleasing scenery; but the hand of art is, perhaps, too apparent.

SOUTH-MOULTON,

So called to distinguish it from the village of North-Moulton, is an ancient market and borough town, pleasantly situated on an eminence, near the west side of the river Moule. Previous to the Conquest, it formed part of the demesnes of Edward the Confessor; but in the reign of Edward the First, belonged to William Lord Martyn, who held it by the service of providing a man, with a bow and three arrows, to attend the Earl of Gloucester when hunting in the neighbourhood.* The Manor afterwards descended to James Lord Audleigh, on the death of whose heir male, in the reign of Richard the Second, it reverted by an entail to the Crown; "since when the Burgesses have bought the borough, which hath a Maior for its chief Magistrate, &c."† The Mayor is assisted in the execution of his office by eighteen Capital Burgesses, a Recorder, Town Clerk, and two Sergeants at Mace.

This town was represented in Parliament in the thirtieth‡ of Edward the First, but no return has been made since that period. It is also remarkable for having been appointed the See of a Suffragan Bishop, by an act made in the twenty-sixth of Henry the Eighth. The Church is a spacious and handsome fabric, containing several good monuments, and a large organ. The Guild-Hall is a convenient building; and the Market-Place, from which various streets branch out, is extensive and well built. Many of the

* Risdon. † Ibid.

‡ Notitia Parliamentaria, Vol. II. p. 240.

Digitized by Google

the inhabitants are employed in the manufacture of serges, shalloons, and felts; and in the obtaining of lime from the various kilns in the neighbourhood. The education of the children of the more respectable natives is provided for by a respectable Free-School, founded in the year 1614; and of those of the more inferior class, by a Charity-School: in the former the late Judge Buller was taught the rudiments of that extensive legal knowledge, through which he afterwards became so celebrated. The number of houses in this parish is 572; of inhabitants 2753: of these 1180 are males, and 1573 females.

SAMUEL BADCOCK, an eminent critic and divine, was born at South-Moulton on the twenty-third of February, in the year 1747. He was educated as a Dissenting minister; but in the latter part of his life, conformed to the Established Church, from an idea that its ordinances were more agreeable to those adopted in the primitive ages; and was ordained in Exeter Cathedral by Bishop Ross. His critiques on the alledged authenticity of Chatterton's Poems procured him considerable literary reputation, and this was much increased by his review of Dr. Priestley's "History of Early Opinions," in attacking the arguments of which, he displayed a very extensive acquaintance with Biblical and Historical learning. He was the author of several other esteemed critiques; and had a considerable share in the composition of Dr White's Bamptonian Lectures. He died in the year 1788, at the residence of Sir John Chichester, Bart. in May Fair, London.

Between the towns of South-Moulton and Chumleigh, it has been conjectured that the Roman station *Termolus* was seated; but antiquaries have not yet been able to identify the spot. Mr. Swete supposes that it was placed near the junction of the rivers *Taw* and *Mole*, as those names are nearly assimilated with that of the station: *Ter* and *Taw* might be easily confounded in old writings, and in provincial pronunciation; and the English *Mole* perfectly corresponds with the Romanized *Molus*. "Contiguous to this place," observes the above Gentleman, "is *Cad-bury;* and near it is Rumons, or *Romans*-Leigh. In the parish of East Worlington is a close called *Wil-chester;* and nearly adjoining is Chum-

Digitized by Google

leigh, or Chimleigh, which, from a *Way* that probably passed here, might afterwards (as it is reported) have been called *Cheminleigh*. From Hembury Fort, or from Honiton, or some spot in its vicinity, where I would fix the *Moridunum* of Antoninus XV. Iter, instead of Seaton, this vicinal road may have tended to Cadbury, south-west of Tiverton, and proceeded by Chimleigh to a *ford* near the junction of the rivers Taw and Mole, and thence passed on to *Artavia*, (probably Hartland,) *Dichen Earthworks* (Clovelly Dikes,) on the eminence over Clovelly, and so on to Stratton, *(strata via.)* Upon opening a tumulus at East Worthington, various antiquities have been found. These consisted of fragments of urns and Roman coins, with singular inscriptions; one of which was the word *Armeniachus*; designating Marcus Aurelius, and Venus."

CHUMLEIGH, OR CHIMLEIGH,

Is a small market-town, situated on the north bank of the river Dart. This manor was formerly a portion of the inheritance of the Courtenays, Earls of Devon, to whom it descended from the Barons of Oakhampton. On the attainder of the Marquis of Exeter, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, it fell with his other possessions to the Crown, and was granted to the Earl of Bedford, one of whose family bestowed it on his wife's daughter, widow of Lord Grey. The Church was formerly collegiate; and four prebends are still annexed to the rectory. This structure was much damaged by a tremendous storm, which occurred in July, 1797; and in which the force of the lightning was so great, that a stone, weighing upwards of 200 pounds, was carried from the south-east pinnacle completely over the tower, without touching it.

"This place is remarkable," says Risdon, "for the seven prebends sometyme there: the manner how they were will hardly perswade creditt. One inhabitant of this towne (for so the tale runneth) being a poore man, had many children, and thought himselfe too much blest in that kinde, wherefore, to avoid the charge that was likely to grow that way, he absented himselfe seven years from his wife; when returning, and accompanying her

Digitized by Google

as before, she was within one yeare after delivered of seven male children at one byrth, which made the poore man think himselfe utterly undone, and thereby dispaireing, put them into a baskett, and hasteth to the river with intent to drowne them; but Divine Providence following him, occasioned the Lady of the Land, coming at that instant in this way, to demand him what he carryed in his baskett, who replied, that he had whelpes, which she desired to see, proposing to choose one of them, who, upon sight, discovering they were children, compelled him to acquaint her with the circumstance; whom, when she had sharply rebuked for such his inhumanity, forthwith commanded them to be taken from him, and put to nurse, then to schole; and consequently being come to man's estate, provided a prebendship for every of them in this parishe: but these eliemozinary acts of hers are almost vanished; togeather with a Free School there founded by the charitable bounty of the Earl of Bedford." The number of houses in the parish of Chumleigh is 296; of inhabitants, 1333; of whom 621 are males, and 712 females.

BOW

Is a small market-town, of very mean appearance, situated on the east side of one of the branches of the Taw. The accommodations are of the most inferior kind; and the place may be said to furnish neither object of curiosity nor attraction. The inhabitants of the parish amount to 677; of these 318 are males, and 359 females: the number of houses is 162.

CREDITON,

Commonly pronounced *Kirton*, is an ancient and populous town, situated near the river Creedy, between two hills; one of which rises with a gradual elevation towards the north, while the other to the south, having a more quick ascent, overlooks the tops of the houses. This town consists of two parts, respectively denominated the East and the West Town; the latter of which was formerly

Digitized by Google

merly of considerably greater extent than at present, upwards of 460 houses having been destroyed by a dreadful fire in the year 1743. A second fire, in May, 1769, consumed many of the new buildings that had been erected on the sites of those before burnt, together with the market-house and shambles; but these have since been rebuilt in a handsome manner.

Crediton was probably a place of considerable consequence in the Saxon times, as no fewer than twelve Bishops had their seat here between the years 924 and 1049, when the See was removed to Exeter. The old Church, or Cathedral, was, according to Leland, situated on the spot now occupied by houses on one side of the present burial-ground; but not any part of it remains: from the time of the removal of the See, there continued in it, a Chapter, under the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Bishops of Exeter. The revenues, at the period of the Dissolution, were estimated at 332l. 17s. 8d. annually. The site of the College was granted by Henry the Eighth, to Elizabeth, Countess of Bute, and Sir Thomas D'Arcy; but the Church and lands belonging to it were given by Edward the Sixth, in the fifth year of his reign, to the Master and Governors of the Free Grammar School, which about that time was established in this town.*

The present Church is a very spacious structure, built in the form of a cross, with a tower rising from the intersection of the nave, and supported by four pillars of uncommon magnitude. The interior is particularly neat; being furnished with a raised floor, covered with pews of the best wainscot. The east and west windows are very large, and are decorated with rich tracery. The altar-piece represents Moses and Aaron sustaining the decalogue, and extends through the whole height and breadth of the chancel. Connected with the latter, at the east end, is a Sunday School; and over the south porch is a small Library, whose books are becoming a prey to worms and spiders.

Besides the seminaries above mentioned, Crediton contains a Charity School for forty poor boys and girls; and a Sunday School, kept at a meeting-house for Dissenters. The number of houses is 1903;

* Tanner's Notitia.

Digitized by Google

1903; of inhabitants, 4929: many of the latter derive subsistence from the manufacture of serges, which is carried on here to a considerable extent. The town is governed by a Portreve; and was once represented in Parliament, in the thirty-fifth of Edward the First. Vast quantities of wool and yarn are sold weekly in the market-place.

"Very notable," says Risdon, "hathe binn this town for her birth childe, WINIFRID, surnamed *Boniface*, who was Archbishop of Mentz, from whence he wrote an epistle to Ethelbald, King of Mercia, which took such effect, that the sacred scriptures were used in the monasteries, and the Lorde's prayer, and the creed, in the English tongue, about the year 758. This Bishop converted the Hessians, Thuringers, and Frisians, of Germany, unto Christ, and was therefore accounted the apostle of that nation, and canonized a saint." Winifrid was several times employed as Pope's Legate; but was at length murdered by the Frisians, and afterwards buried in Fulda Abbey, which he had founded.

TIVERTON,

ANCIENTLY called *Twyford-town*, and *Two-ford-ton*, from its situation between the rivers Exe and Loman, is a place of considerable antiquity, built on the slope of a hill gently rising towards the north. In the time of Alfred it was only a village; but had twelve tythings belonging to it, and was governed by a Portreve. The whole hundred of Tiverton, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, was held of that Monarch by his vassals; and at the period of the Domesday Survey, it was described as "lands belonging to the King." Henry the First granted the manor and lordship to Richard Rivers, afterwards Earl of Devon, by whom a Castle was erected here about the year 1106; and continued to be the baronial residence of the family for a considerable number of years. Amicia, widow of Baldwin Rivers, Earl of Devon, claimed the manor and lordship as part of her dower; and, under an inquisition taken in the tenth year of Edward the First, certified her claim, "to view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and beer, a gallows, pillory,

Digitized by Google

pillory, &c. a weekly market, and three annual fairs." Passing from the Rivers' to the Courtenay family, Tiverton continued in that line till it was seized, with their other possessions, by Henry the Eighth, on the attainder of the Marquis of Exeter. Edward the Sixth bestowed it on the Protector Somerset; but about three years after the fall of that nobleman, it was granted by letters patent to Sir Henry Gate, from whom it was again taken by Queen Mary, and restored, with the other estates of the family, to Edward Courtenay, last Earl of Devon. On the decease of this nobleman, at Padua, his lands became divided among the heirs of the four sisters of Edward, his great-grandfather, and were soon afterwards dispersed, by sales and intermarriages, among a great variety of persons. Seven-eighths of the lordship of the hundred, manor, and borough of Tiverton, is now the property of Sir Thomas Carew, Bart. of Haccombe, in this county; the remaining eighth belongs to Edward Coleman, Esq. Sergeant at Arms to the House of Commons.

The foundation of the Castle, by Earl Rivers, and the great attractions which a Baron's residence possessed in those ages, occasioned a considerable increase in the buildings and population of Tiverton; and by the favor of its Lords, it was invested with the privilege of a market as early as the year 1200. About fifty years afterwards, the stream of water now called the Town-Leat, was conducted from the distance of about five miles, to supply the inhabitants with water; and a piece of waste land, called Elmore Common, was given for the benefit of the poorer classes, either to pasture with cattle, or to cultivate, as might be most expedient.

These advantages continued to attract new comers: but the most rapid augmentation of the town took place on the final establishment of the woollen manufacture, about the year 1500; for though this business had undoubtedly been introduced many years before, the desolating wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, and other circumstances, had hitherto prevented its making any particular progress. But the most considerable increase in its trade and population, occurred in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the inhabitants amounted to nearly 5000,

being

Digitized by Google

being double the number that resided in the town thirty years before. Tiverton, indeed, at this period, "was the principal place in Devonshire for the manufacture of woollen goods;" and particularly kersies, which still continue to be the chief articles made here.

In the year 1591, the plague was introduced into the town by a poor traveller, and so fatal was its progress, that upwards of 550 persons became its victims in the course of a few months. Numbers fled to avoid its destructive influence; and the place was so thinned of inhabitants, that the growing of grass in the streets is particularly recorded. The effects of this pestilence were hardly overcome, when the town itself was almost wholly destroyed by fire. This calamity was occasioned by a woman frying pancakes over a blaze of straw, which catching the dry thatch of the cottage, spread with such singular rapidity, that more than 400 dwellings, and several chapels, were consumed in about two hours. Thirty-three persons perished in the flames, together with a great number of horses; and the value of the property destroyed was estimated at 150,000l. This accident happened on the third of April, 1598.

In the course of ten or twelve years from that time, "Tiverton was again esteemed a town of great importance, called the chief market-town in the West, and nurse of the country. Many rich clothiers and merchants lived in it, and 8000 people were constantly employed in its manufactures of woollen cloth. Two thousand pounds ready money were expended every market-day in cloth-wool and yarn, brought from all parts of the country for sale, and applied to the fabricating plain cloths, and kersies of different qualities, but chiefly those of the finest, as Tiverton kersies were highly esteemed for internal consumption, and eagerly bought by the merchants of London for exportation." The buildings at this period were increasing both in number and respectability; and Tiverton would most probably have become one of the greatest manufacturing towns in England, but for a second conflagration, which destroyed nearly all the property of the inhabitants, and wholly blasted their flourishing expectations.

This

Digitized by Google

This fire happened on the fifth of August, 1612: it was occasioned by the "carelessness of two fellows in a dye-house, who being more intent on the brutish diversion of dog-fighting than minding their business, permitted the fire from under the furnaces to kindle the body of fuel in the house, then chiefly wood and furze. The flames soon spread beyond their power to extinguish, to the destruction of that and the adjoining houses; and gathering strength, extended with increasing rage to the other houses of the town, which being generally covered with thatch, and at that time very dry, took fire like tinder, and were soon destroyed. It being the assize week, many of the inhabitants were at Exon; and those at home were filled with such consternation at the sudden rise, and rapid spread, of the fire, that they were unable to exercise aright the powers of thought or action; and having no fire-engines on proper constructions, it was scarcely possible to prevent the total destruction of the town. Six hundred houses were burnt in a few hours; and the only buildings that escaped, were St Peter's Church, the Schools, and Alms-houses; except about thirty dwellings, of little value, on the outskirts of the town. Goods and merchandize to the amount of 200,000l. were consumed; utensils, and other means of carrying on future trade, destroyed; and the inhabitants of every rank and description reduced to the greatest distress."* The confusion and want which arose from this deplorable calamity, were partly dissipated by large sums collected by brief throughout the country; and many hundreds of the poor manufacturers, whose dwellings were consumed, were distributed by the magistrates in different towns of Devon, by which means the advantages of the clothing trade, that had hitherto been almost exclusively enjoyed by Tiverton, were extended to the other parts of the county.

In the year 1615, Tiverton received its first Charter of Incorporation from King James; and its government was then vested in a Mayor, twelve Capital Burgesses, and twelve Assistant Burgesses, to be chosen out of the "most discreet and honest inhabitants of the

* Dunsford's Historical Memoirs, &c.

Digitized by Google

the town and parish." The right of returning the Members of Parliament was also granted to the same persons; though it had been previously exercised* by all the inhabitants able to boil a pot. This charter continued in force till the year 1723; when such great dissentions arose among the members of the Corporation, that the Mayor absconded on the day appointed for the choice of a successor; and the provisions of the charter being violated by the consequent neglect, it became forfeited. The ensuing year a new charter was granted by George the First, on the petition of the inhabitants; but, instead of extending their privileges, as had been expected, the principles on which it was bestowed, and its most important clauses, were precisely similar to the former one.

From the period of granting the first charter to the year 1625, the population of the town continued to increase, and at that time amounted to nearly 6000. Fifteen years afterwards, the number of inhabitants was at least 7900; and the woollen manufacture was also proportionably augmented. During the continuation of the Civil Wars, the trade rather declined; but after Cromwell had assumed the Protectorate, it became more prosperous, and a greater number of marriages were contracted at Tiverton between the years 1653 and 1660, than in any similar period recorded in its annals. In the reigns of Charles the Second, and his bigotted successor, the woollen business again declined, but became more flourishing in the time of William the Third, when the manufacture of mixed woollen serges was established, and greatly promoted, by the friendly intercourse which existed with Holland during the government of this Monarch, and of Queen Anne, his successor.

In the year 1731, another severe check was given to the growing prosperity of the town, by a third dreadful fire, which in a few hours consumed 298 dwelling-houses, besides other buildings, and in its progress threatened destruction to the whole town. The value of the property destroyed was estimated at about 60,000l. The distresses of the inhabitants were, in a considerable degree, relieved by voluntary subscriptions; the contributions amounting to

* In the first Parliament of James the First.

Digitized by Google

to nearly 11,000l. Soon afterwards an Act was passed for rebuilding the town, and preventing further dangers by fire, in which it was enjoined, that "the new-built houses should be covered with tiles, or lead, instead of thatch; that no trade likely to occasion fires, should be carried on in any of the public streets, nor any stacks of corn or straw be erected in them; that fire-engines should be provided; and the streets and passages widened."

Soon after this accident, the manufacture of sagathies, druggets, cloth-serges, drapeens, and other fine woollen goods, were introduced, and these articles were made in considerable quantities for the markets of Flanders, Brabant, and Germany. For several years afterwards, the trade continued with but little variation; but the wars with France and Spain, about the middle of the last century, and the introduction of the Norwich stuffs into the markets of Holland, contributed greatly to lessen the demand. The evil was heightened by contentions between the merchants and the workmen, which frequently occasioned tumults, and prevented the execution of the necessary orders. From this period, both the trade and population decreased rapidly; and about 1770, the inhabitants were nearly 2000 less in number than they were forty years before. The American war was still further productive of injurious consequences: but the manufacture of long ells, sandfords, and other fabrics, having been since introduced, the population has somewhat increased, and the general trade of the town is now on a respectable basis. The number of houses, as returned under the late act, is 1322; of inhabitants, 6505; of these 3001 are males, and 3504 females.

The spot of ground on which Tiverton is built, partakes of the triangular form, from the course of the rivers by which it is bounded. The greatest length of the town is nearly one mile; its breadth is exactly three quarters. The four principal streets form a quadrangle, inclosing an area of gardens, in the centre of which is a fine bowling-green. Most of the houses are of red brick, or of stone, and are generally covered with blue slate. Those on the outskirts of the town, and at the ends of the streets which escaped the fire of 1731, are of earth, or cobb, covered with thatch. The principal

Digitized by Google

principal buildings are the Castle, the Church, and the Free Grammar-School.

The Castle is situated on the west side of the town, on a spot conveniently adapted for the defence of the eminence on which the buildings are erected. From the present remains, and other circumstances, it appears to have been nearly of a quadrangular form, inclosing an area of about an acre, and surrounded by a strong wall, from twenty to twenty-five feet in height. At the south-east, north-east, and north-west angles, were round towers, with battlements, each about thirty-five feet high; and at the south-west angle, a square tower. The chief entrance was by a spacious gate-way, under a large square building, jutting out a few yards from the centre of the east wall: a square tower, somewhat corresponding to the former, jutted out in like manner from the centre of the wall towards the west.

This fortress was secured from attack on the west side, by a steep declivity of about sixty feet, on the edge of which the west wall was built. Two wide and deep moats, filled with water from the town leat, defended the whole of the north and south walls to each side of the causeway leading to the gate on the east: over one of these, near the round tower, at the south-east angle, was a draw-bridge. "The causeway and outer gate, under a strong Gothic pointed arch, were defended by means of the battlements, and small stone arches on the wall over it, from whence the garrison could unperceived annoy the enemy with stones, arrows, melted pitch, or boiling water, and prevent any approach to it. Two other strong gates, under two like arches,* eighteen feet distant from each other, further secured the passage, or gate-way, within; the whole of which was thirty-six feet long, and fifteen feet wide, divided by the gates into equal parts, the ceilings of each of them strongly arched with stone. Under the round tower, near the draw-bridge, were some stone steps, supposed to have led to the entrance of a subterraneous passage beneath the moat and

* These curious stone arches were all taken down some years ago, except one on the north side the gate, the ruinous condition in which they were, threatening danger.

Digitized by Google

and Church-Yard, to the middle of the town. The best apartments in the Castle were probably towards the north wall, now destroyed; and those over the gate-way, which remain almost entire, and are regular, lofty, and spacious. On the top of the stone stair-case, was a small turret, at present ruinous, called the Earl of Devonshire's Chair."

The first act of violence to which this fortress was exposed, was in the reign of King Stephen, when Baldwin Rivers, Earl of Devon, son and successor to Richard, was driven from it by the arms of that Monarch. The Castle was afterwards repaired; and the celebrated Isabella de Fortibus, and the first Earls of Devon of the Courtenay family, made it their place of residence. In the wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster, it was several times exposed to assault; but after the union of the rival families, attained considerable splendor; Catherine, youngest daughter of Edward the Fourth, and widow of William Courtenay, Earl of Devon, making it her court, and chief place of abode. On the death of Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter, her son, (whom the cruel policy of Henry the Eighth had caused to be beheaded,) the Castle gradually fell to decay; and the parks and pleasure-grounds belonging to it, were either sold, or granted by the Crown to different persons.

Previous to the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles the First, this fortress appears to have been repaired, and at that period was garrisoned for the King; but, after a slight siege, it was taken by a detachment from the army, commanded by General Fairfax. The circumstance which led to this event is thus related.

"On Sunday, October the nineteenth, 1645, the General went early to see the batteries; and the ordnance being ready, a council of war was called, wherein it was determined to storm the Church, Castle, and works; and whilst the Officers were in debate at the School-House, about the manner of the storm, which was that afternoon to be executed, the cannon which had been playing hard against the works and Castle, broke the chain of the draw-bridge in two with a round shot; whereupon the bridge fell down across the moat, and the soldiers immediately, without

Digitized by Google

waiting for orders, seized the bridge, entered the works, and took possession of the Church-Yard, which so terrified the enemy, that they quitted their cannon, and some of their posts and lines, and instantly fled into the Church and Castle. The soldiers pursued the fugitives into the Castle, and crept in at the Church windows, the doors having been fastened, and attacked them with great fury in both places, when they cried out in a lamentable manner for quarter, and surrendered themselves prisoners: the soldiers plundered and stript most of them to their shirts, but gave them their lives. The Governor, who had before been summoned, but had peremptorily refused to hearken to any treaty of surrender, though he despaired of any relief, now shut himself up in his chamber in the Castle, and hung out a white flag for a parley; but such was the fury of the soldiers, that it could not be attended to; yet when they got into the Castle, and came to the place where he was, they gave him free quarter upon his surrender."*

From this period the Castle has been falling to decay; and several of the ancient buildings have been converted into the offices of a farm. The north wall, and the round tower at the north-east angle, are entirely gone; the square building in front, the pointed arch at the entrance, and those beneath the gate-way, are almost entire. Great part of the south and west walls, with parts of the round towers at the north-west and south-east angles, are also standing; together with the square tower near the middle of the west wall, and some other portions of the building. The moat on the south side, towards the Church-Yard, is converted into a good kitchen garden; that on the north side is filled up, and made part of a large court-yard.

The Church is a very handsome structure, dedicated to St. Peter, and situated on an eminence at the north-west end of the town, within a little distance of the Castle. Its length is 136 feet, and its width 82; and though the work of different and distant ages, more regular than might have been reasonably expected. The south side is ornamented with much curious sculpture, and

* Dunsford's Historical Memoirs, p. 186.

Digitized by Google

particularly the porch, and the adjoining Chapel: over the windows of the latter, on a cornice of white marble, are represented many of the incidents of the life and actions of Christ, in bassorelievo; besides ships, and other symbols of commerce. This Chapel was erected about the year 1517, by a respectable Merchant of Tiverton, named John Grenwaye, who also rebuilt the south aisle and porch; and founded some Alms-houses in the town for the poor inhabitants. Near the east end on the north side are some slight remains of a sumptuous Chapel, built by the Rivers, Earls of Devon, as a burial-place for the family. This building was destroyed at the Reformation: within it was a magnificent tomb to the memory of Edward Courtenay, and Catherine his Countess, on which was the following inscription.

Hoe! Hoe! who lies here?
'Tis I the good Erle of Devonshere,
With Kate my wyfe to me full deer:
We lyved together fyfty-fyve yeere.
That wee spent wee had.
That wee lefte wee loste.
That wee gave wee have.

The tower is a plain stone structure, built contiguous to the Church, and ornamented with battlements and pinnacles: its height to the top of the latter is 116 feet. The summit commands an exceedingly beautiful and diversified prospect. The interior of the Church is spacious, but very irregular. The part now occupied by the chancel, is said to have been originally the whole extent of the Church, which has been enlarged at different periods, as the population of the town advanced: the altar-piece is a rich painting of St. Peter delivered from Prison by the Angel. The chancel is separated from the body of the Church by a screen, ornamented with elegant tracery: over it is a large and good organ. Several costly monuments decorate the walls in different parts of the Church.

As this fabric was too small for the reception of the numerous inhabitants of the town, a Chapel of ease was erected here about the year 1738, and dedicated to St. George. This is a neat build-

Digitized by Google

ing of the Doric order, cased with yellow Purbeck stone. The roof is supported by two rows of large Ionic pillars, which separate the Chapel into three parts. The seats are of Flemish oak, and are disposed with much taste and regularity. Besides the above places of religious worship, several Meeting-Houses for Dissenters of various denominations have been erected in different parts of the town.

The Free Grammar-School is a very fine building, situated near the banks of the Loman, at the east end of the town, and extending to the length of 170 feet. This was erected about the year 1604, pursuant to the will of PETER BLUNDELL, a native, and eminent Clothier of this town. He was born in the year 1520, "of parents in such a low station of life, that, when very young, he was obliged to run on errands, and do other little services for the common carriers, to obtain necessary support. As he grew up, he attended their horses; and having saved a little money in this employ, he bought a piece of kersey cloth, which he sent to London by one of the carriers, who making no charge for the carriage, sold it to great advantage. The profits from this kersey, and a few more savings, enabled him to purchase others, which he sent and sold in like manner. From similar returns, in a short time he bought as many kersies as would load one horse, with which he went himself to London, where he was employed some time by the agents in the kersey trade, by whom he was much esteemed for his fidelity and great assiduity. When he had acquired a sufficient sum to begin the manufacture of kersies, he returned to Tiverton, and established himself in that business, which he conducted many years with great credit and success. The fortune he thus acquired by his active and laudable exertions, was very great; and as his mind happily enlarged with his circumstances, his liberality was unconfined, and his bounty became general and useful. He died unmarried, at the age of eighty, and by his will bestowed the whole of his ample fortune to promote learning, to encourage husbandry, to advance the trade and manufactures of his native place, to animate the industrious; and to remove the ills, or alleviate the distresses, of his fellow creatures."*

* Dunsford's Historical Memoirs, &c.

Digitized by Google

The whole of the numerous bequests thus made for charitable purposes, amounted to upwards of 40,000l.

The north front of the Grammar-School is neatly cased with Purbeck stone, and is separated into three parts, by two arched stone porches. In each division are three large uniform stone windows, and one also in each porch. The interior contains apartments for the Master and Usher, two spacious school-rooms, where 150 boys receive instruction, a dining-room, hall, kitchen, and numerous lodging-rooms: opposite the front is a quadrangular green, bounded by a stone wall; in the centre of the front of which, under an arch, is an elegant iron gate, and over it the following inscription, engraven in ancient characters upon stone.

This Free Grammar School
Was founded at the only cost and charge
Of Mr. Peter Blundell, of this town, Clothier.
Anno Domini 1604.
Ætatis suæ 84.

Above it, on a brass plate, are these curious lines:

Hospita disquirens Pallas Tritona sedem,
Est Blundellinæ percita amore scholæ,
Ascivit sedem placuit cupiensq. foveri,
Hospes, ait, Petrus, qui mihi fautor eris.*

In addition to the requisite endowments for the support of the School, Mr. Blundell left 2000l. to purchase lands for the maintenance

* The following translations of this inscription have been made by different persons.

Minerva, on her travels, sought to find
Some hospitable place to please her mind:
She saw this School—struck with its stately dome,
She cried with transport, 'This shall be my home.'

When wand'ring Pallas sought some sweet retreat,
In Blundell's School at length she fix'd her seat;
'Peter,' she cried, 'beneath thy roof I'll rest,
And at thy table sit a well-pleas'd guest.'

Digitized by Google

tenance of three Scholars in each of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, "to be chosen out of his said School by the Trustees, with the approbation of the Master; and of foreigners, with the consent also of ten freeholders of Tiverton, paying taxes to the Government; but always preferring natives of Tiverton parish, and all under eighteen years of age." Besides the above, Tiverton contains a Charity-School, supported by subscription; and a Free English-School, endowed in the year 1611, by Robert Comyn, otherwise Chilcott, who had been confidential Clerk to Mr. Blundell many years, and appears to have designed this establishment as a preparatory seminary to the Grammar-School founded by his Master.

The charitable bequests for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Tiverton, are exceedingly numerous and valuable; though several of them have been lost, or dissipated, by injudicious management. Among the principal, are the Eastern Alms-Houses, founded by John Grenwaye about the year 1517, the endowments of which are now appropriated to the support of nine poor and aged men; and the Western Alms-Houses, erected and endowed in the year 1529 by John Waldron, a Merchant of this town. Under the cornice, in front of the latter, is the following quaint inscription.

> John Waldron, and Richoard his wyfe,
> Builded this house in tyme of their lyfe:
> At such tyme as the walls were fourtyne feet hye,
> He departed this worlde, even the eightynth of July.

The Town-House is a spacious building, divided into many apartments, appropriated to the meetings of the Corporation, Grand Juries, and other companies, on public business. The Mayoralty-Room in this edifice contains portraits of GEORGE THE FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD: beneath it are the offices of the Tiverton Bank, which was first opened on new-year's day, 1788. The Market-House, for the standing and sale of corn, is a large quadrangular fabric, supported on rows of strong wooden pillars, and conveniently disposed as a repository for the corn that

Digitized by Google

may remain unsold. The Hospital, or Poor-House, is a regular brick structure, eighty-one feet in length, and ninety-two in depth: this was completed about the year 1704, and contains various work-shops for the employment of the persons whom indigence or misfortune may oblige to enter it.

"The inhabitants of Tiverton have long been characterized for a general disposition to social intercourse and conversation. The fine bowling-green in the centre of the town invites the gentlemen to associate there in the summer evenings for salutary exercise; and tea-parties of both sexes are much encouraged in the same season of the year, by the many variegated walks near the town, and hospitable farm-houses in the parish. The adjacent hills and woods afford much diversion to the lovers of the chace. Regular assemblies, concerts, and card-parties, are frequent in the winter; and many evening clubs and friendly societies have likewise been formed, for mutual enjoyment and recreation after the business of the day."* A Reading Society was also established here in the year 1775; the members of which, though of different sects and professions, have been remarked as conducting the affairs of their association with uncommon harmony.

The parish of Tiverton is nearly nine miles and a half in length, and about eight miles in breadth. It is divided into four ecclesiastical portions, three rectories, and an impropriation. This division is supposed to have been made by Sir Hugh Courtenay, first Earl of Devon of that name; and the occasion of its being made, is thus related in Westcote's Manuscripts in the British Museum.

"Sir Hugh Courtenay gave this rectorye to a Chaplain he had; who, having lyved incumbent on yt sometyme (and, being as it is to be supposed, of a generous and bountyfull nature) would complayn generally, and sometyme particularly, to his Lord's Officers, that the rectorye yealded not a sufficient mayntenance for one of his place and mynde to keepe hospitalitie answerable to his

* Dunsford's Historical Memoirs, &c. From this valuable Work the principal materials for the above account of Tiverton have been derived.

Digitized by Google

his calling. This, often spoken, came in tyme to his Lord's ears, who, in convenient tyme, conferred with this sayd Chapleyn concerning his complaynt; and told him he had considered thereof, and was purposed to procure him a lyvinge more proportionable to his mynd, and more convenient, if he would resigne this. The incumbent, tickl'd with these words, and filled with hope of higher promotion, was ready at the very instant to resigne; and the noble Earle (a worke worthy his wisdom) divided yt (which then might easily be done) in fower parts or quarters, Pryor, Tydcombe, Clare, and Pitt, with intent to bestow it on fower dyvers men. But with some respect to his old Chaplyn, the last incumbent, offered him the choice; which he, seeing no other preferment readye, and perceiving his Lordship's intent, gratefully accepted, and thereby fayrely taught to lyve by a crown, that could not lyve by a pound, and may counsell and advise all men to be content when they are well, and have enough.

Nature's with little pleas'd—enough's a feast—
A sober lyfe but a small charge requires;—
But man, the author of his own unrest,
The more he hath, the more he styll desyres."

COLLIPRIEST HOUSE, pleasantly situated a short distance south of Tiverton, was formerly the seat of the Blundell family, but is now the property of Thomas Winsloe, Esq. who rebuilt and enlarged the Mansion a few years ago. It stands on the side of an eminence near the river Exe, having a sloping lawn in front, and a hanging wood behind. The grounds are pleasant, and contain some fine elms, and other trees.

BAMPTON,

ANCIENTLY called *Bathrum-ton*, and *Batherm-ton*, is a small town, situated in a bottom near the little river Batherm, which flows into the Exe at about a mile distant. This, says Mr. Polwhele, was a "Roman station; and here probably the Romans had artificial hot-baths, supplied with water from the river Ba-

Digitized by Google

therm; which is, perhaps, a compound of *bath*, and *therme*, (from *calidus,*) *hot-baths.*" Walter de Doway, to whom the Manor was given by the Conqueror, had a Castle here, of which not any vestiges are remaining. The houses are built with stone, and are irregularly disposed over an extent of about half a mile: their number, as returned under the late act, is 302: that of inhabitants, 1364. Many of the latter are employed in the manufacture of serges. The Church is a spacious building, pleasantly situated, and has been the burial-place of several of the Bouchiers, Earls of Bath. The government of the town is directed by two Portreves, two Constables, and some inferior Officers, who are all chosen by the inhabitants. The chalybeate spring at this place has been highly celebrated for its medicinal properties. The sheep fed in the neighbourhood are remarkable for their size and flavour. This town "gave birth to JOHN DE BAMPTON, a Carmelite, who studied and first read Aristotle publicly at Cambridge: he seems to have been beneficed in Yorkshire, and died 1391."*

HOLCOMBE COURT, the seat of the ancient and respectable family of the *Bluetts*, one of whom was Bishop of Lincoln in the reign of William Rufus, is an extensive and rich demesne, about five miles east of Bampton. The Mansion is a venerable building of lime-stone, having a porch and tower at the entrance. In Holcombe Church are several monuments of this family.

SAMPFORD-PEVEREL was part of the ancient inheritance of the *Peverils* of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, several of which family lie buried in the Church. Henry the Eighth sold the Manor to the *Pawlets*, whose descendant, Lord Pawlet, of Heanton St. George, is the present owner. The celebrated Margaret, Countess of Richmond, resided in the Manor-House, and is reported to have built one of the aisles of the Church. In one of the windows, according to Risdon, were the arms of England with those of the Earl of Derby; and beneath these words inscribed on the glass: *Mater Regis et Thomæ Comitis Derbie mariti ejusdem Margaret.*

CULLUMPTON,

* Gough's Additions to Camden

Digitized by Google

CULLUMPTON, OR COLUMBTON,

ACCORDING to Risdon, "is the chiefest place on the river Culme, and was the King's demesne in the Saxon heptarchy." Alfred bequeathed the manor to his son Ethelward, with other lands in the counties of Somerset and Hants. It was afterwards given to the abbey of Buckland Monachorum, but now belongs to Francis Colman, Esq. of HILLERSDOWN; a mansion pleasantly situated about one mile north-west of this town.

Cullumpton consists principally of one long street, badly paved, and the centre of it much disfigured, and obstructed, by some old shambles. Through this street passes the turnpike road from Bath and Bristol to Exeter; a circumstance from which the town derives some advantages; and having several woollen manufactories, it presents an appearance of commercial consequence. Many of the houses are well built; but the humbler dwellings are mostly constructed with cobb walls. The manufactures are principally of broad cloths, serges, and kersymeres; but the former are not made in any considerable quantity. The town is governed by a High Constable, and four Petty Constables.

The only ornament to Cullumpton is its Church, a large respectable structure, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consisting of a nave, three aisles, chancel, and a lofty tower at the west end. The interior of the roof is curiously carved and gilt; and the nave is separated from the chancel by a richly sculptured rood-loft. The aisle on the south side was built by John Lane, a clothier of this town, whose memory is commemorated in the following inscription on his grave stone.

"Hic Jacet Johannes Lane mercator, hujusque capellæ fundator cum Thomasia uxore sua, qui dict Johan obiit XV Feb annoque Dom millo CCCCCXXVII."

The following inscription appears on the outside of Mr. Lane's aisle, running round the whole, with each word cut on detached stones:

"In

" In honor of God and his blessed mother Mary, remember the soule of John Lane, Wapentaki Custos, Lanarius, and the soul of Thomasine his wife, to have in memory with all other their children and friends of your own charity, which were founders of this chapple, and here lie in sepulture, the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and six and twenty. God of his grace on both their souls to have mercy, and finally bring them to the eternal glory, amen for charity."

The aisle built by Mr. Lane is of very elegant architecture; and, according to an inscription against the east end, was finished in 1552. The windows are large, and the roof is ornamented with rich fan-shaped tracery. On the outside are various sculptured ornaments, emblematic of his profession as a clothier. In this town is a Free School, and three Meeting-Houses, appropriated to the respective sects of Presbyterians, Anabaptists, and Methodists. The number of houses is 481; of inhabitants, 2187.

HEMYOCK is an extensive parish, on the north-east side of the county, bordering on Somersetshire. It formerly contained a Castle, some vestiges of which are still visible in the moat, and foundations. This was for many generations the seat of the *Hidons*; and Mr. Polwhele thinks it was erected by one of that family. After passing through the *Dinhams*, *Pophams*, and *Leighs*, it was lately purchased from the latter by General Simcoe, who proposes to make it assume some of its ancient characteristics. The Castle had two round towers at the entrance, with a portcullis, and was enclosed with a flooded entrenchment. In the time of the Civil Wars, this fortress was garrisoned against Charles the First; and, according to the tradition of the parish, it was demolished soon after the Restoration. " It is not improbable," observes General Simcoe, " that Hemyock Castle was built on Roman foundations, as the hills of Black Down, in this neighbourhood, abound with iron pits; and quantities of wood and iron scoria are found in the parishes of Hemyock and Dunkeswell."

DUNKESWELL derives part of its name from a spring, which is called St. Patrick's Well. In this village was an abbey of Cistercians, founded by William Lord Briwere in 1201. This religious house was endowed with the revenues of the village, and several estates in the neighbourhood; the whole amounting,

at

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

WOLFORD LODGE,
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

at the Dissolution, to 298l. 11s. 10d. Speed. Within the limits of this parish is

WOLFORD LODGE, the seat of Lieutenant General Simcoe, who purchased it from Peter Genest, Esq. The house is delightfully situated on the southern side of a high range of hills, forming a semicircle round three of its sides. The declivities are decorated with fine hanging woods, and many young plantations are springing up. This mansion has been nearly rebuilt by the present possessor, and is fitted up in a commodious and comfortable manner. Some of the rooms are large, and contain a few good portraits; and a great collection of the best maps, plans, and military treatises. The prospects from the house, and surrounding hills, embrace a great extent and variety of richly-cultivated country; in which are included the city of Exeter, Honiton, Ottery, and the courses of the Exe, Otter, and other streams. At the extremity of a projecting hill, south-west from the house, is a large treble entrenchment, called HEMBURY FORT. Some antiquaries have supposed that this was the Roman station *Moridunum*, as corresponding nearly with the distances of Antoninus's Itinerary, between Dorchester and Exeter; though others have fixed that station at Seaton. There is more reason to fix Moridunum here than at the latter place: but this fort most probably was never a Roman *station*, though it might have been the site of a camp, which protected the station; it being uncertain whether any Roman antiquities have been found, either at Seaton or Hembury; though Roman coins are reported to have been dug up at the latter place.

HONITON

Is "situated in a delightful vale, upon a rising ground on the south side of the river Otter, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country, which presents to the eye a variegated extent of corn and pasture, beautifully interwoven."* Before the Norman Invasion, the manor belonged to Drogo, a Saxon; but in the Domesday Book, it is described as the property of Robert, Earl of Mortaigne,

* Polwhele, Vol. II. p. 276.

Digitized by Google

Mortaigne, to whom it was given by his half-brother William the Conqueror. On the rebellion of William his son, it was seized by Henry the First, and granted to Richard de Rivers, from whom it descended to the *Courtenays*, Earls of Devon, and is now the property of Lord Viscount Courtenay, of Powderham Castle.

This town possessed the advantage of a market as early as the reign of King John, by whose direction the day on which it was held was altered from Sunday to Saturday. Though an ancient borough by prescription, it was only twice represented in Parliament previous to the reign of Charles the First. The first return was made in the twenty-eighth of Edward the First. The right of election is now vested in the burgage holders, paying scot and lot *only*, but was formerly extended to every housekeeper able to boil a pot without receiving alms. The number of voters is about 350. The government of the town is under the direction of a Portreve and Bailiff, who are chosen annually at the Court of the Lord of the Manor.

Honiton consists principally of one broad handsome street, running from east to west; and another, crossing it at right angles: through the former flows a small stream of clear water, from which the inhabitants are supplied by a dipping-place opposite almost every door. The buildings are mostly modern, and covered with slate; an improvement that originated from two dreadful fires; the first of which occurred on the nineteenth of July, 1747, when three-fourths of the town was reduced to ashes, and several hundred of the laboring inhabitants thrown out of employ: the last happened in the year 1765, and consumed nearly 180 dwellings, and other buildings. The number of houses returned under the late act was 557; of inhabitants, 2377. The chief article of manufacture is broad lace, and edgings, considerable quantities of which are disposed of in the Metropolis.

The Church is situated on a bold eminence at the distance of about half a mile from the town. It was originally a small Chapel for Mendicant Friars, but was enlarged about the year 1482, chiefly at the expence of Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter; who also gave the curious screen which separates the chancel from the nave.

Within

Digitized by Google

Within it are some ancient monuments; one of which records the memory of Dr. Thomas Marwood, who was Physician to Queen Elizabeth, and died in 1617, "above the age of 105 years." The ancient parochial Church is supposed to have stood in the town on the spot now occupied by Allhallows Chapel. This is a neat structure, with a square embattled tower of flint; and was erected by subscription, in place of an older edifice, about the year 1765. Besides these places of religious worship, here are three Meeting-Houses for the respective denominations of Independants, Baptists, and Presbyterians. The education of the poorer classes, is partly provided for in a small Free School for boys, and a School of Industry for girls: the latter is supported by the subscriptions of females.*

ESCOT HOUSE, the seat of Sir John Kennaway, Bart. is situated in a fertile part of the county, about five miles distant from Honiton. This estate was purchased in 1794, by the present proprietor from Sir George Yonge, whose grandfather began building the house about the year 1680, though it was not finished till after the Revolution. The house is built of brick, with some few stone ornaments; and forms an oblong square of 90 feet by 80. It has been much altered and improved under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, and the whole is disposed in a commodious manner. Many of the rooms are adorned with valuable landscapes, portraits, and other paintings. From the portraits we select the two following, as interesting memorials of two praise-worthy characters: MARQUIS CORNWALLIS, a full length, by H. W. Devis; an artist who has acquired some celebrity by his fine historical picture of the Marquis Cornwallis receiving the hostage Princes of Mysore, before Seringapatam. The late GEORGE BAKER, Esq. a native of Tormoham, in this county: painted by Home in India. This venerable character is represented sitting in a pensive attitude,

* OZIAS HUMPHRY, Esq. F. S. A. Royal Academician, and member of several foreign societies, was born at Honiton, where this branch of his family has resided ever since the reign of Edward the Sixth. John Humphry, one of his ancestors, was an officer of the army assembled in Dorsetshire, under the first Lord Russel, in order to suppress the insurrection, occasioned by the pulling down of images in the western counties.

Digitized by Google

tude, with the traits of meditation marked in every feature. Mr. Baker went, early in life, to India without patronage, without money, and almost without education; but, actuated by a powerful genius, he soon surmounted every obstacle, and, by persevering application, acquired much general and scientific knowledge. Before Mr. Baker's settlement in Madras, the inhabitants were obliged to procure all their fresh water with great labor, and at considerable expence. These difficulties he entirely removed, by conducting water to the town through leaden pipes, and by this important improvement obtained a considerable fortune. This was benevolently and charitably appropriated during his life, and after his death, which occurred in 1797. Exclusive of 1500 pagodas, (about 615l.) which he bequeathed to the asylums at Madras, he left legacies of from fifty to five hundred pounds, to the poor inhabitants of the respective parishes of Tormoham, Tallaton, Abbots-Kerswell, Brampford-Speke, Totness, Cockington, Mary-Church, and Marldon, in this county.

"Perhaps," observes Mr. Polwhele, "there are no plantations in Devonshire so strong and luxuriant as those at Escot. The firs, as well as the forest trees, are very large, tall, and branchy. The growth of these trees has been remarked to be very rapid, as soon as their roots have spread through the loamy substratum. The house stands in a demesne of about 500 acres.

OTTORY ST. MARY

Is a large irregular market-town, deriving its name from its situation near the river Otter, and the dedication of its Church to St. Mary. Edward the Confessor, or Earl Otho,* gave the Manor to the Cathedral of St. Mary, at Rouen, in Normandy; but in the reign of Edward the Third, the Dean and Chapter, having obtained the King's permission, sold it to Grandison, Bishop of Exeter, who founded a College in the parochial Church here, "for a Warden, eight Prebendaries, ten Vicars, a Master of

* Monasticon Anglicanum, Vol. II. p. 1017.

Digitized by Google

Engraved by N. Angus from a Drawing by J. Benner

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

of Music, a Master of Grammar, two Parish Priests, eight Secondaries, eight Choristers, and two Clerks."* At the Dissolution, the endowments were valued at 338l. 2s. 9d. and the site of the College was granted, by Henry the Eighth, to Edward, Earl of Hertford.† The chief part of the Manor now belongs to Sir George Yonge.

The situation of this town is extremely pleasant and healthy. The principal building is the Church, which is very large, and has many singularities in its construction. On each side is a square tower, opening into the body of the Church, and forming two transepts, as in Exeter Cathedral The towers are furnished with pinnacles, and open battlements: that on the north has also a small spire. At the north-west corner is a richly ornamented Chapel, built by Bishop Grandison; the roof of which is covered with highly wrought, fan-shaped tracery. The interior of the Church is sadly neglected; many of the monuments are broken, and various parts filled up with lumber. The altar-screen is of stone, finely carved into niches, and tabernacle work; but this is partially covered with boards, and painted. On the south side of the communion table are three stone seats rising one above another. Most of the windows are narrow, and lancet-shaped. "In the body of the Church, between two pillars, arched pyramid-wise, is the proportion of a man cut in stone, armed cap-a-pee, with a lyon couchant at his feet: opposite hereunto, between two pillars semblably-arched, is laid the proportion of a woman curiously cut in stone, sometime fairly adorned with coat armories, but now defaced by time." These monuments are now obscured by seats: they are supposed to have been raised to the memory of William Grandison, and Sybil his wife, the parents of Bishop Grandison. The following inscription in this fabric is, perhaps, deserving of notice for its quaintness.

Near this marble lies to rest,
Of John, and Richard Cooke, the dust;
Who here must rest as in a bed,
Till Death and Grave give up their dead.

Among

* Tanner's Notitia. † Ibid.

Digitized by Google

Among the various epitaphs and inscriptions that have been destroyed, or hidden, through the carelessness so apparent in the inside of this Church, was one to the memory of the wife of Gideon Sherman, Esq. who died in the first week of her marriage; this has been preserved by Prince as follows:

If wealth, wit, beauty, youth, or modest mirth,
Could hire, persuade, intice, prolong, beguile,
Death's fatal dart, this fading flower on earth
Might yet, unquail'd, have flourished a while:
But wealth, youth, beauty, wit, nor mirth, nor all,
Can stay, or once delay, when Death doth call.

No sooner was she to a loving mate,
From careful parents solemnly bequeathed,
The new alliance scarce congratulate,
But she from him, them all, was straight bereaved:
Slipping from bridal bed to funeral bier,
She soon fell sick, expir'd, lies buried here.

Oh! Death, thou might'st have waited in the field
On murdering cannon, wounded sword, and spear;
Or there, where fearful passengers do yield,
At every surge each blast of wind doth rear;
In stabbing taverns, or infected towns,
On loathsome prisons, or in Princes' frowns:—

There, not unlook'd for, many one abides
Thy dreadful summons; but a nuptial feast
Needs not thy grim attendance; maiden brides,
In strength and flower of age, thou may'st let rest.
With wings so weak mortality doth fly,
In height of flight Death strikes, we fall, we die.

The number of houses in this town, as ascertained under the population act, was 519; of inhabitants, 2415: many of the latter derive employment from the manufactories of flannel, serge, and other woollens, that were established here a few years ago, through the exertions and patronage of Sir George Yonge, and Sir John Duntze, Barts. In Mill-Street are the remains of an ancient mansion, once inhabited by the great Sir Walter Raleigh; and in one of the old Collegiate Houses, just without the Church-Yard, is a large

Digitized by Google

large parlour, made use of as a Convention-Room by Oliver Cromwell. The School-House was formerly kept by the father of the poet Coleridge, a man of strong natural capacity, who neglecting the shuttle, applied to the study of languages; and having made considerable progress by his own talents and application, afterwards placed himself at Cambridge, for the purpose of attaining a greater proficiency. The parish of Ottery St. Mary is a hundred within itself.

CADHAY, an ancient seat of a family of the same name, whose heiress conveyed it in marriage to the *Haydons*, was afterwards the residence and property of William Peere Williams, Esq. the judicious editor of the Law Reports. This gentleman died in the year 1766, and was buried in the Church of Ottery St. Mary, where a small mural tablet, by Bacon, was erected to his memory in 1794.

The Manor of FARINGDON, anciently called *Ferendon*, was held by a family of the same name, from the reign of Richard the First till about the commencement of the sixteenth century, when the last heir was guilty of suicide, through grief occasioned by the loss of a beloved wife.* It is now in the possession of John Burridge Cholwich, Esq. whose Mansion, called FARINGDON HOUSE, is a spacious and commodious building. The grounds, are pleasant, and the plantations particularly flourishing. The prospect from *Windmill-Hill*, at a little distance from the House, reported to have been the site of a Roman entrenchment, is very extensive.†

CLYST HOUSE, at present in the possession of Miss Beavis,‡ was, previous to the Dissolution, a palace of the Bishops of Exeter. It is a large and venerable building; though some portion of its former grandeur has been destroyed by the removal of the gate-way. The front commands views of a great extent of country.

* At "Faringdon was the longe contynewed race of Faringdon, which had in this age a fatal catastrophe, by the untymely and unfortunate deathe of a fayre conditioned, well qualified, but most unhappy gentleman, who wanting patience to indure the untymely loss of a most loving and beloved weif, cutt off his days violently and stranglye." *Westcote's MSS.*

† Polwhele, Vol. II. p. 202. ‡ Ibid. p. 203.

Digitized by Google

TOPSHAM

Is a maritime town, situated at the confluence of the rivers Clyst and Exe, though chiefly extending along the eastern bank of the latter. "Here," observes Leland, "is the great trade and rode for shippes that usith this haven, and especially for the shippes and merchant-mannes goodes of Excester. Men of Excester contende to make the haven cum up to Exceter self: at this time shippes cum not further up but to *Apsham*." (Topsham.) The Manor was the property of the *Courtenays*, Earls of Exeter, one of whom procured the town the privilege of a market, and annual fair. This was probably the Hugh Courtenay who blocked up the channel of the Exe, after quarrelling with the Mayor and Corporation of Exeter.*

Topsham principally consists of one long street, of irregular breadth, extending north and south. Many of the houses are handsome; but the greatest number have but a mean appearance. The southern extremity, called the Strand, is the most pleasant, the river flowing within a short distance of the houses, and is chiefly inhabited by persons of fortune: the view from it is extensive and beautiful. The quay is spacious and convenient, and now belongs to the Chamber of Exeter, who purchased it about twenty-five years ago. Most of the inhabitants are employed in the shipping business: the total number residing in the parish, as returned under the late act, was 2748; the number of houses was 477. The Church stands near the centre of the town, on a high cliff, commanding some very fine scenery. "A noble river, distant shipping, churches glimmering through groups of trees, a fertile vale, and a fine range of mountains, rising above each other in beautiful perspective, as far as the eye can reach."†

NUTWELL, the beautiful seat of Lord Heathfield, nephew and successor to Sir Francis Drake, is situated on the east side of the river Exe, nearly opposite to Powderham Castle. According to Risdon, the Manor-House was a Castle till Lord Dinham, about the time of Edward the Fourth, converted it into a fair and stately

* See page 79. † Polwhele, Vol. II.

Digitized by Google

stately dwelling-house. Sir Francis Drake made many alterations; and it has since been nearly rebuilt by the present possessor, on a more ample scale, and at a very great expence. The plantations are much improved and extended. The contiguous scenery is highly interesting.

EXMOUTH, so named from its situation at the mouth of the river Exe, and now one of the best frequented watering-places in Devon, was, little more than a century ago, only a small hamlet, inhabited by fishermen. It was then brought into repute by one of the Judges of the Circuit, who retired hither to bathe when in a very infirm state of health, and received great benefit. "It is situated near the sea shore, between the cliffs, which open, as it were, on purpose to receive it, and is furnished with every accommodation necessary as a watering-place. It is well sheltered from the north-east and south-east winds, by some high hills, which rise almost close behind, and supply the place with excellent water. The buildings, in general, are low and incommodious; but here and there are some good houses, inhabited by genteel families, which of late have made Exmouth their constant residence, and have now the pleasure of meeting in a good assembly-room. The walks are delightfully pleasant, commanding views worthy the pencils of the best masters. From a hill called Chapel-Hill, the eye is presented with a line of coast extending from Exeter to the Berry-Head, a distance of about twenty miles. This line is broken by several hills, that gradually ascend from the coast on the opposite side of the river, and are covered with lively verdure, and woody inclosures; the village of Starcross skirting their bottoms. Behind these hills spring up some bold towering head-lands, of varied shapes, and unequal heights, through which the sight is still led to distant objects of various kinds, woody summits, and barren rocks, gradually diminishing, so as to form a complete landskip."* The plantations of Mamhead and Powderham Castle heighten the beauty of the prospect; which is additionally embellished by the noble buildings connected with those estates. Hollinshed mentions a Castle erected here to defend the entrance of

* Polwhele, Vol. II. p. 215.

Digitized by Google

the haven; and tradition affirms it to have stood at Gun-Point, where some slight vestiges of embrasures are still apparent. Exmouth is a Chapelry in the parish of Littleham, the population of which, according to the late returns, is 720 males, and 1189 females: the number of houses was 432.

At *Hayes*, a farm-house in the parish of East Budleigh, SIR WALTER RALEIGH, whose talents and whose fate have excited the admiration and regret of posterity, was born about the year 1552. His family was ancient and respectable; and though not wealthy, indulged him in all the advantages of a liberal education; and he was early distinguished at the University for the vivacity of his genius, and the variety of his attainments. After remaining three years at Oxford, during which time he had frequently expressed a particular partiality for a military life, he was permitted to pursue the bent of his inclination, and at the age of seventeen began his career of glory as one of the troop of an hundred young gentlemen, authorized by the Queen to volunteer their services in the cause of the Protestant Princes on the Continent. On his return home, after the expiration of six years, to avoid a state of inaction, he entered into the land service in Ireland: a militia so very poor, says Winstanley, that it scarcely afforded him "food and raiment." Sir Walter was not, however, to be discouraged; but probably seeing a better chance elsewhere, he shortly afterwards embarked for the Netherlands, where, under that never-to-be-forgotten hero and patriot, Prince William the First of Orange, he shared in the glory of delivering Holland from the yoke of Spain. The year following (1579) he engaged in a voyage of discovery, conducted by his half-brother Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who had obtained a patent to plant and settle some of the northern parts of America; but this expedition proving unsuccessful, he soon after returned to England. It was in this voyage, most probably, that he imbibed his taste for discovery, and that romantic spirit of adventure, which gave such a decided cast to his character.

In 1583 he again engaged in a similar expedition; but this also was defeated by adverse circumstances. Some discoveries made

Digitized by Google

made during the voyage, however, so impressed Sir Walter with a conviction of ultimate success, that, on his earnest representation to the Queen, he was empowered to prosecute his enquiries; and the result was the important discovery of Virginia. Sir Walter, on his return, received from the Queen the honor of knighthood, accompanied with a grant of lands in Ireland, and the exclusive privilege of vending *wines* by retail throughout the Kingdom. His good fortune now advanced apace. A fleet of seven sail, which he sent out to colonize Virginia, not only accomplished their mission, but his cousin, Sir Richard Grenville, who commanded it, on the voyage home captured a Spanish prize, estimated at the then enormous value of 50,000l.

In tracing the progress of our hero through the subsequent years of Elizabeth's reign, we behold a series of brilliant actions and successes! He made no less than five voyages to Virginia. He was one of the most distinguished Officers on board the fleet which destroyed the Spanish Armada; and he proposed, and warmly seconded, a number of patriotic plans for the improvement of navigation and commerce; particularly Captain Davis's expedition for discovering a North-west Passage. His learning was continually improving into habits of life, and helped greatly to advance his knowledge of men and things; and he became a better soldier, a better sea-officer, an abler statesman, and a more accomplished courtier, in proportion as he was a better scholar.

On the death of the Queen, in 1603, and the accession of James, her contemptible successor, Raleigh's sun set. That timid pedant, who was destitute of merit himself, hated it in others; but military merit was peculiarly his aversion, as it was a tacit reproach on his own cowardice. Sir Walter was soon marked out for destruction; though James, the better to conceal his designs, affected, in the beginning, to treat him with great kindness. The first step to his disgrace was his dismissal from the post of Captain of the Guards. A forged accusation was in the meantime prepared; and though no evidence was adduced, of his having been engaged in any treasonable act whatever, he was brought in guilty, and condemned for high treason. The trial was throughout not only conducted

Digitized by Google

with the greatest acrimony by the Crown lawyers, but, to the eternal disgrace of his memory, Sir Edward Coke, then Attorney General, made use of the grossest and most unmanly abuse in opening the false accusation, and stigmatized Sir Walter with the opprobrious appellations of "traitor, monster, viper, and spider of hell." The patriot was condemned, and sentence was passed; but the dastardly court durst not proceed to execution, so great was the love and veneration of the people for the hero of his country. He was, therefore, reluctantly reprieved, and detained a close prisoner in the Tower.

During the protracted rigors of this confinement, which lasted nearly thirteen years, Sir Walter produced his "*History of the World;*" the design of which, says Granger, "was equal to the greatness of his mind, and the execution to the strength of his parts, and the variety of his learning: his style is pure, nervous, and majestic, and much better suited to the dignity of history than that of Lord Bacon. Raleigh seems to have written for posterity; Bacon, for the reign of James the First. This admirable work has been thought a just model for the reformation of our language." He was at length released, through the joint intercession of the Queen and Prince Henry, and the application of a douceur of 1500l. given to a relation of James's minion, George Villiers. The events which befell him after his liberation are well known. A combination of unforeseen unfortunate circumstances, some of them purposely contrived, prevented his bringing the golden bribe he expected from the mines in Guiana, and occasioned his ruin. Gondamor, the Spanish Ambassador, who hated him as the sworn foe of his nation, was loud in his complaints, and it was resolved therefore to sacrifice him to Spain, in a manner that has justly exposed the court to the abhorrence of all succeeding ages, by calling him down to judgment on his former sentence, passed fifteen years before.

Having received notice to prepare himself for death, on the twenty-eighth of October, he was taken out of his bed in the hot fit of an ague, and being put to the bar, and demanded why execution should not be awarded against him, he pleaded the King's commission

Digitized by Google

commission for his last voyage, the very words of which, "To his trusty and well-beloved Subject, &c." did in themselves imply a pardon. He was not, however, suffered to proceed: the warrant for his execution, which was ready signed and sealed, was read; and on the very next day he was conducted to the scaffold, where he concluded his life in a manner suitable to the energy and dignity of his character. He ascended the steps with a cheerful countenance, spoke in a firm and decided manner to the people; and, after inspecting the axe, and conversing with the most perfect ease, he laid his neck to the block, and it was severed at two blows; "his body never shrinking or moving." His head was shown on each side the scaffold, and then put into a red leather bag; and his velvet night-gown being thrown over it, it was afterwards conveyed away in a mourning coach of his Lady's.

"Thus fell the brave Sir Walter Raleigh, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, a sacrifice to a despicable administration, and the resentment of a mean Prince; a man of an extensive genius, capable of vast enterprises; and from his earliest appearance in public life, to the last stage of it, a firm and active patriot." He was beheaded on the twenty-ninth of October, 1618.

BICTON, a seat of John Lord Rolle, was given by Henry the First to one John; surnamed *Janitor* from his office, and the tenure by which this estate was held; that of keeping the prison for the county, a service still performed by the possessors of the manor. From the *Janitors* it descended to Sir Thomas Dennis, (knighted in Holland by the Earl of Leicester 1586,) whose daughter conveyed it by marriage to Sir Henry Rolle, of Stevenstone, ancestor to the present owner. The mansion is a spacious building, standing in a pleasant park, plentifully stocked with beech and oak trees, and abounding in deer.

Bicton Church is a small neat building, situated in a romantic spot, and encircled by a beautiful screen of woods. Within it is an alabaster monument erected to the memory of DENYS ROLLE, Esq. who died in the year 1638. The inscription was written by Dr. Fuller, and is as follows:

Digitized by Google

His earthly part within this tombe doth reste,
Who kept a court of honour in his breaste:
Birth, beautie, wit, and wisdome, sat as pieres,
Till Death mistooke his virtues for his years;
Or else Heaven envy'd Earth so rich a treasure,
Wherein too fine the ware, too scant the measure.
His mournful wife, her love to show in part,
This tombe built here—a better in her heart.
Sweete babe, his hopeful heyre—Heav'n grant this boon,
Live but so well; but, oh! dye not so soon.

OTTORTON, says Risdon, "coasteth the cliffs near where the river Otter empties his waters into the sea at Ottermouth; which is a goodly manor, and from the Conquest to the Dissolution of the Abbies continued in the hands of religious men." The Conqueror gave it to the Monks of St. Michael in Periculo Maris, in Normandy, who had a priory of Benedictines here; the revenues of which, at the suppression of the alien priories in the time of Edward the First, were valued at 87l. 10s. 4d. per annum. There was also a nunnery here; and the area inclosed by the quadrangle formed by the buildings of the Manor-House, is still known by the name of the Nun's Court.

Woodbury Castle, on the edge of a high hill, in the road between Sidmouth and Newton-Poppleford, is a small inclosure, of an irregular form, deeply entrenched. In some part the ditch is double; the south part seems like an appendix to it; the ditch single, and not so deep as the other. It commands an extensive and beautiful prospect over the river Exe, and the surrounding country.*

SIDMOUTH,

Is a small but neat market-town, situated in a bottom, at the mouth of a narrow valley opening to the sea, between two steep ranges of hills. Through this bottom the little river Sid flows towards the ocean, where it is lost in the pebbles on the beach. The cliffs are composed of sand, tinged by the red oxyde of iron, and partly

* Gough's Additions to Camden.

Digitized by Google

partly calcareous; the glare of which, together with that of a broad bed of pebbles, and the low situation of Sidmouth, render it intensely hot at the time of a clear summer sky: the adjacent scenery is, however, extremely delightful.* This was formerly a good sea-port; but the harbour has been so choaked up with sand and pebbles, that pleasure boats and fishing smacks are the only vessels that can now approach the shore. Of late years, the population and buildings have increased, through the number of persons who frequent it in the summer season for the purposes of bathing and recreation. The accommodations are good; and an elegant ball-room, billiard-room, and tea-room, have been erected for the convenience of the visitors. The number of houses in this parish is about 260; of inhabitants, 1250. Near the beach is an ancient stone building, with very thick walls, firmly cemented, which tradition affirms to have been a Chapel of ease when Otterton was the mother Church; and in a path leading from Sidmouth to Otterton, called *Go-Church*, is an ancient Cross.

The scenery on the coast from Sidmouth to SEATON, is probably the finest on the southern shores of Devon. The rocks are bold, and, by their association with other objects, present some very romantic and picturesque views. Seaton is supposed by Camden to have been the *Moridunum* of Antoninus; and Stukeley, Salmon, and Borlase, agree with him in that opinion; but Baxter places that station at Topsham; and Horseley, at Eggerton Hill, in Dorsetshire." Half a mile above Seaton is *Honey Ditches*, an oblong moated camp of three acres, probably the garrison of the port.† The sea has considerably retired from the land in this part of the coast; or rather the stones and sand that have here accumulated, have caused that appearance." " Ther hath beene," observes Leland, " a very notable haven at *Seton;* but now ther lyith between the two pointes of the old haven, a mighty rigge and barre of peble stones in the very mouth of it, and the ryver of Ax is driven to the very est point of the haven, caulld Whit Cliff, and ther at a very small gut goeth into the se; and here cum in small fischar botes for socour. Seton is now but a meane thing, inhabited

* Maton's Observations, Vol. I.

† Gough's Additions to Camden.

Digitized by Google

inhabited with fischar men; it hath beene far larger when the haven was good." The united parishes of Seaton and Beer contain 295 houses, and 1497 inhabitants.

COLYTON, OR CULLITON,

The town upon the river Coly, is a small but ancient market-town, called, by Risdon, a "borough of reputation." The houses are, in general, built with flints, and mostly thatched: and the housekeepers of a small district, called the *borough*, annually chuse a Portreve at the Lord's Court. In the time of the Conqueror, Colyton was the King's demesne; and King John granted the inhabitants a fair, to continue eight days. The parish Church is a spacious stone fabric, with a tower rising above the chancel, the upper part of which is octagonal. On the south side of the chancel is an inclosed burial-place belonging to the De la Pole family, containing various effigies, and other monumental decorations: and in the small aisle between the Church and chancel, is the figure of a girl under a stone canopy, apparently about five years of age. She is said to have been the grand-daughter of Edward the Fourth, and to have been choaked by a fish-bone: over her are the Royal and the Courtenay arms. The number of houses in this town is 289: of inhabitants, 1641.

COLCOMBE-HOUSE, near Colyton, was erected by the Earls of Devon in the time of Edward the First; but on the attainder of Henry, Marquis of Exeter, the crumbling edifice was left to ruin. On its coming into possession of Sir William De la Pole, the author of the Collections for the History of this County, he new built the house, and made it his place of residence. It is now the property of his descendant Sir W. T. De la Pole, but is again in a state of decay.

Membury Castle is an ancient work, on a very high spot of land, on the east side of the river Axe. Its situation was judiciously chosen, as it commands some extremely extensive views, both of sea and land. The Manor anciently belonged to the Barony of Oakhampton; but, on the attainder of the Marquis of Exeter,

was

Digitized by Google

was given, by Henry the Eighth, to Sir Edward North. It afterwards became the property, by purchase, of Sir John Drake, of Ashe, whose family continued possessors till within these few years, when Captain Williams, the heir of the *Drakes*, sold it to Messrs. Bunter, Isaac, and George Tucker, of Axminster; the two last of whom are its present owners. The Drake Mansion-House at *Ashe* was a spacious and commodious building, but is now in a state of ruin. It was rebuilt, shortly after the Civil Wars, by Sir John Drake, whose daughter had married Sir Winston Churchill, the father of the Great Duke of Marlborough. Sir Winston was originally of Wotton Glanvill, in Dorsetshire; but his adherence to the cause of Charles the First obliged him to take refuge at the house of his father-in-law, where most of his children were brought forth; and among them

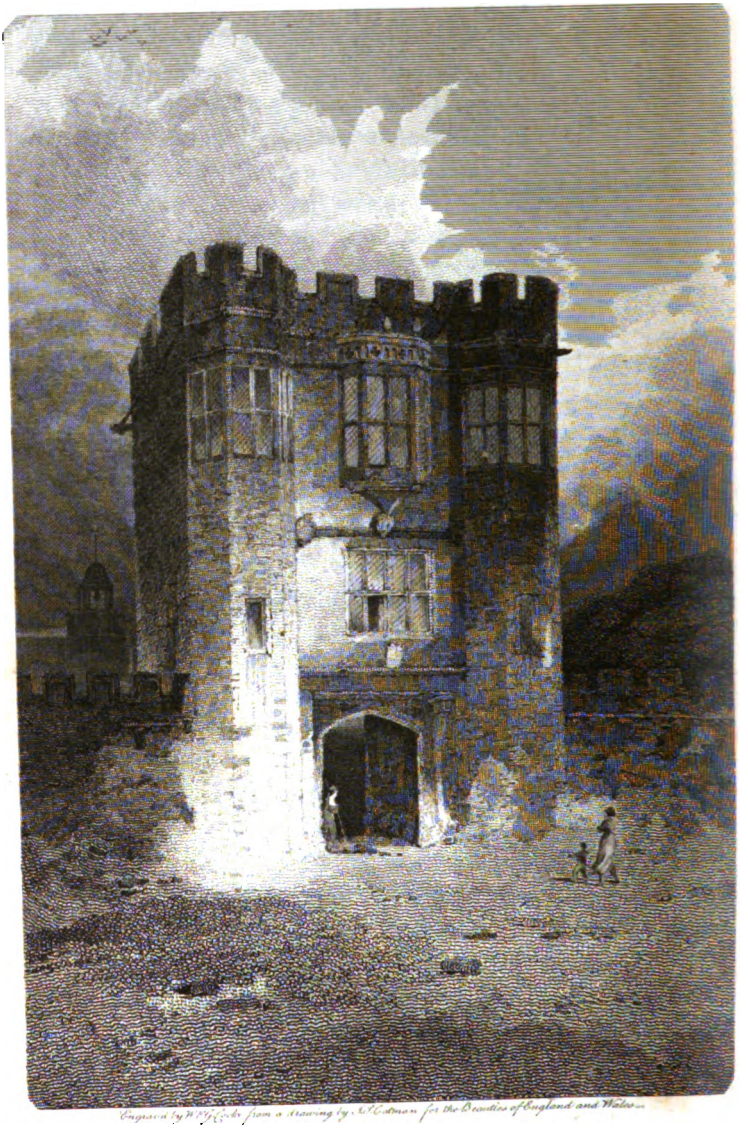
JOHN CHURCHILL, Duke of Marlborough, the celebrated General and Statesman, who was born on Midsummer-day, in the year 1650. He was introduced to court when very young, and was made Captain at the age of twenty-two, before which period he had been in several actions. At the siege of Nimeguen, he so greatly distinguished himself, that he was noticed by the Marshall Turenne, who called him the handsome Englishman. At the siege of Maestricht, which happened soon after, the French King thanked him at the head of the line; and the Duke of York told King Charles that he owed his life to Mr. Churchill's bravery. On his return to England, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel. About the same time he married Sarah Jennings, afterwards the celebrated Duchess of Marlborough, the intimate but insolent favorite of Queen Anne. In 1682 he was created a peer, by the title of Baron Eymouth, in Scotland; and on James's accession, received the additional title of Lord Churchill, of Sandwich, and had the honor of being sent Ambassador to the French Court to notify that event. He continued to serve King James with fidelity, and took an active part in quelling the western rebellion; but when the Monarch endeavored to alter the established religion of the country, he deserted him, and joined the Prince of Orange. This change obtained him an important command in the army; and after the Prince's coronation, he was sworn of the Privy Council, made a Gentleman

Digitized by Google

a Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber, and created Earl of Marlborough. He afterwards served in Holland, Ireland, and Flanders; but on his return disgraced, and even committed prisoner to the Tower, through a false accusation of treason, as is reported; though the true cause admits of some argument. On the death of the Queen, he was restored to favor; and the tuition of the young Duke of Gloucester was committed to his care. Fortune now, as if to make him amends for her former unkindness, showered her gifts upon him. He was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the States of Holland, and was chosen Captain General of their forces, with a salary of 100,000 florins per annum. On the accession of Queen Anne, he attained still higher honors and emoluments. The description of his achievements during the succeeding years, each of which was more splendid than the other, is the proper subject of history. The rewards he received were equally great. He was advanced to the Dukedom of Marlborough, and had a pension of 5000l. assigned to him and his heirs enjoying that title, for ever. The magnificent palace of Blenheim, which cost half a million of money, was bestowed on him by the nation. The houses of Parliament congratulated him; addresses poured in from all parts of the kingdom; and all the powers and potentates of Europe seemed eager to follow their example. The King of Spain presented him with a sword set with diamonds. The republic of Holland sent him letters of congratulation. He received a letter of thanks from the Emperor Leopold, written with his own hand; an honor paid to none but Sovereigns; and was at the same time requested by him to accept the dignity of a Prince of the Empire, which, with the Queen's leave, was conferred on him by the title of *Prince of Mildenheim in the Province of Swabia.* Neither his services, however, nor his honors, were sufficient to preserve him from disgrace on a change of ministry; and he who had such a short time before been the idol of the nation, was at length so neglected and insulted, that he went into voluntary banishment with his Duchess. It is not improbable but this lady's haughty behaviour to her mistress Queen Anne, might be one occasion of the treatment he met with. On the death of the Queen, he re-

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



Engraved by W. F. Cooke from a drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Beauties of England and Wales.

GATEWAY TO SHUTE HOUSE.
Devonshire.

London: Published by Verner & Hood, Poultry, July 1803.

Digitized by Google

turned to England, and was welcomely received, and appointed to a command in the army. Some years after, he retired from public business. He died at Windsor Lodge in 1722, aged 73; and was interred in Westminster Abbey with the highest pomp, and all the solemnity due to a person who had deserved well of his country. "His character will be best appreciated by his actions. If he had foibles, they were those inseparable from human nature. His country he raised to be the first of nations, as during the time in which he lived he was the first of men; and as long as our histories remain, or, indeed, the Histories of Europe, his memory will live, and be the boast of Britain."

SHUTE HOUSE, the principal seat of Sir William Templar de la Pole, Bart. is about three miles south-west of Axminster. The old Manor-House* is falling fast to decay. Risdon terms it an "ancient dwelling of personages of good worth, and some Knights surnamed thereof; as Lucas de Sheete; Sir William and Sir Robert Sheete, Knights, in the days of Henry the Third, from whom it came to Sir Thomas Pyne, Knight." It afterwards continued in the Bonville family for some time, and came to the Crown upon the attainder of Henry, Duke of Suffolk. Queen Mary granted it to Sir William Petre, her principal Secretary; from whose family it was purchased by Sir John William Pole, Bart. in 1787, when a new house was began upon a large scale, at the distance of a quarter of a mile. This has never been finished; as the worthy Baronet died during its progress, and left a minor heir. The plan of the new building is a square body, with two uniform wings, connected by corridors.

KILMINGTON, near Shute, "is said to be a corruption from *Kil-maen-ton*, the town at the stony burial-place, bearing the memory of a great slaughter made in Kingsfield."† The Manor anciently

* The annexed Print represents the ancient gate-way, which led to the House. Attached to the cornices of this gate-way are several grotesque figures, and stone shields, bearing the family arms, &c. Over the embattled wall is seen a bell turret, belonging to the Mansion.

† Polwhele, Vol. II. p. 293.

Digitized by Google

ciently belonged to the Barons of Torrington, the last of whom, Matthew de Toriton, left five daughters, among whom his estates were divided; and, by the respective marriages of the heiresses, passed into different families.

AXMINSTER,

Called *Axminstre* in the Domesday Book, and in old writings, *Axmyster*, was so denominated from the river Axe, which runs through it, and a *Minster* reported to have been erected by King Athelstan, for seven Priests, whom he appointed to pray for the souls of seven Earls, "slain at Calesdown in a battle which raged to Colecroft by Axminster."* Previous to the Norman Invasion, the Manor belonged to the Crown. King John gave it to William Lord Briwere, from whom it descended to Lord Reginald de Mohun, who founded an Abbey of the Cistercian order at Newenham, and bestowed upon it the Hundred and Manor of Axminster. At the Dissolution, it came to the Norfolk family; but is now the property of Lord Petre, to whose ancestor, Sir William Petre, it was granted by James the First.†

Axminster is a large irregularly built town; the streets are in general open, but the houses are of various architecture, and not remarkable for elegance: their number, as returned under the late act, was 431: that of inhabitants, 2154. The laboring classes of the latter are chiefly engaged in the manufacture of carpets, leather breeches, gloves, &c. The Carpet manufactory was established here about the year 1755, and is now in a very flourishing state; the number of hands employed being upwards of one hundred. The process of weaving differs materially from that pursued in most other places. The carpets are woven in one entire piece, several hands being employed in conjunction at the same loom, working the patterns with needles. The Turkey and Persian carpets are here imitated with great success; but the usual patterns are flowers, roses, &c. and it is not unusual, in many large pieces, to copy Roman tesselated pavements, which have an uncommon richness and variety. One loom measures in breadth no less

* Pole's Collections, p. 115. † Chapple's MSS.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

FORD ABBEY.
Devonshire.

Digitized by Google

less than twenty-seven feet, and the piece woven in it may be extended to any length.

The Church is a large, venerable building, dedicated to St. Mary: it exhibits specimens of several kinds of architecture; but it seems doubtful if any part is so ancient as the time of its reputed founder. The interior has a heavy, cumbrous appearance, particularly where the bulky tower, rising awkwardly in the middle of the structure, intercepts the view, and gives a disagreeable heaviness to the whole. This Church is said by Leland to have been "famose by the sepultures of many noble Danes slain in King Æthelstane's time, at a batel on Branesdowne thirby, and by the sepultures likewise of sum Saxon Lordes slain in same feld." Some few parts of the building have the appearance of great antiquity, particularly a Saxon door-way, that has been removed from the south side to the eastern end of the aisle. The windows of the School-House, close by the Church, are also rounded in the Saxon style. In this town is a Roman Catholic Chapel, a Meeting-House for Independents, and another for Methodists.

The most eastern part of this county is the parish of Thorncombe, (a tract of land surrounded by Dorsetshire,) within whose boundaries is FORD ABBEY,* the seat of John Francis Gwynn, Esq. This is a large pile of building, consisting partly of the old Abbey walls, with various heterogeneous additions. Parts of the ancient building bear evident marks of elegant architecture, and particularly the remnant of the cloister. This beautiful fragment consists of eight windows facing the south, with light buttresses between them, and joins a round Chapel on the east; and on the western side connects with the great hall, or refectory. This is a noble room, fifty-five feet by twenty-eight, lighted with four large windows on one side, charged with mullions and tracery: five similar windows on the opposite side are blocked up. The south front

* In the Print is represented part of the Chapel to the right. The modern additions project from the centre, and are connected to a fine square tower entrance. This unites with the great Hall, which is joined to other modern apartments. The water in the fore-ground is part of one of the Abbey fish-ponds.

Digitized by Google

front opens to a raised terrace, and presents a long range of building, in which is combined a strange and incongruous mixture of English and Grecian architecture. The first is displayed by the cloisters and hall; whilst the latter is seen in a projecting colonnade, and some apartments that have been added to the centre. These additions are said to have been made by Inigo Jones, and the style of architecture seems to justify the opinion; but whether adopted by a professional architect, or recommended by a tasteless proprietor, it is sufficient that they exist a singular example of perverted taste. "The ruin," observes Mr. Gilpin, "is patched up into an awkward dwelling; old parts and new are blended together, to the mutual disgrace of both. The elegant cloister is still left, but it is completely repaired, white-washed, and converted into a green-house. The hall, too, is modernized, and every other part; sash windows glare over pointed arches, and Gothic walls are adorned with Indian paper." The original Abbey was founded by Adelign, daughter of Baldwin de Brioniis, in 1140, for Monks of the Cistercian order. The revenues were valued, at the Dissolution, at 381l. 10s. 8½d. and the house, with its demesnes, was given by Henry the Eighth to *Sir Richard* Pollard. It came into the Gwynn family by the marriage of Margaret Francis in 1690, with Francis Gwynn, *Esq. of* Lansanor, in Glamorganshire. In the Chapel are some monuments of the *Prideaux's*, and the arms of several families who have successively possessed the Abbey. Some of the wainscotting and pannels are the same as cased the ancient walls. In the saloon are several pieces of tapestry wretchedly copied from Raphael's much admired cartoons.

Digitized by Google

DORSETSHIRE.

BEFORE the arrival of the Romans, Dorsetshire, according to Ptolemy, and other writers, was inhabited by the DUROTRIGES, or MORINI; both which appellations are derived from the British language. The term DUROTRIGES, is compounded from *dwyr*, water, and *trigo*, to abide, or dwell; and implies *Inhabitants by the water*. MORINI is derived from *Morin*, signifying maritime, and the common plural termination for people; and is therefore similar in its import to Durotriges, as it means the *maritime people*, or *dwellers on the sea-shore*. The Morini Britons are thus mentioned in a Poem of Taliesin's. "Upon the sea there would be coming the wooden wafters, full of the tumult of the Angles in council: signs are seen boding the rage of the Saxons. Of those that are wont to lead, let Seiron be the head, against the lion Picts, of the Morini Britons."* By the Saxons, Dorsetshire was styled *Dor-setta;* Dor, from the British *Dwyr;* and setta, from the Saxon *Settan*, to inhabit, or dwell upon; its signification was therefore similar to Durotriges, *the dwellers by the water*.

The early history of Dorsetshire is vague, and unsatisfactory. That it had British possessors is, however, certain; not only from its name, but likewise from the monuments which yet exist, of their peculiar customs. The chief of these remains are the Agglestone, near Studland; a Circle of Stones, near Pokeswell; a Cromlech, near Portisham; and the Temple, and segment of a Circle of Stones, near Winterbourne. On the division of the Island into Roman provinces, Dorsetshire became part of BRITANNIA PRIMA; and on the establishment of the Saxons was included in the kingdom of Wessex, to which it continued attached

* Owen's Cambrian Register, Vol. II.

Digitized by Google

till the union of the different states under Egbert. Many of the Saxon Kings appear to have lived in this county; and Kingston Hall, and Corfe Castle, are pointed out by tradition as their places of residence.

Dorsetshire is bounded on the north by Wiltshire and Somersetshire; on the east, by Hampshire; on the west, by Devon, and part of Somerset; and on the south, by the *British* Channel. Its form is every where irregular: its long northern side has a considerable angular projection in the middle: the sea-shore on the south runs out into numerous points and head-lands, till it stretches to the Isle of Portland; thence westward the coast is not so deeply indented, but inclines obliquely towards Devonshire. Its extent, from north to south, is about thirty-five miles; its breadth, from east to west, about fifty-five; its circumference may be estimated at nearly 160. The area includes about 775,000 acres; and is divided into thirty-four hundreds, and five divisions, containing upwards of 390 parishes, twenty-two market-towns, nine boroughs, about 22,260 houses, and 115,320 inhabitants. The general appearance of the county is uneven, and in many parts very hilly. Its most striking features are the open and uninclosed parts covered with numerous flocks of sheep, who feed on the verdant produce of the downs.

In the natural division of this county, the greater proportion of the land is appropriated to pasture; the arable is estimated at one third, and the waste at about a ninth: the principal sheep country is round Dorchester. Great numbers of sheep and oxen are fed in the Vale of Blackmore, which is distinguished for its rich pasture, and extends from north to south, about nineteen miles; and from east to west, about fourteen; and contains upwards of 170,000 acres: here are also some orchards, which produce excellent cyder. Many of the other vales on the south-western side are likewise uncommonly luxuriant. The greatest extent of waste land is in the south-eastern part of the county, from below Bere-Regis southwards towards Lulworth and the sea, extending beyond Corfe Castle to the Hampshire border: the greatest part of this is a most dreary waste, serving only in the summer to sup-

Digitized by Google

port a few ordinary sheep and cattle, and to supply the neighbouring villages with heath for firing. Some few spots have of late been cultivated, and appear like gardens in a desart. The turnpike roads are numerous, and render travelling easy and pleasant.

Dorsetshire, from the mildness of the air, and the beauty of its situation, has been termed the *Garden of England*. The soils vary in different parts. About Bridport the lower lands are mostly deep rich loams: on the higher hills, throughout the western district, the soil is a sandy loam, intermixed with a base kind of flint, and well adapted to the growth of beech. To the north of Sherborne, which affords some of the best arable land in the county, it is a stone brack, which is the case in the Isle of Portland, and most parts of the Isle of Purbeck. The tillage in the open parts of the country is very much upon a chalk bottom, and all the way towards Abbotsbury and Weymouth is of an inferior quality. In the centre of the county the soil is good, and the land well managed. The open and uninclosed parts are in general poor land, and scarce admit of any improvement by inclosing, as the great scarcity of wood, and in some places of stone, would make it very expensive. Draining, except in the water meadows, is very little practised in any part of the county; though much of the tillage land, which is gravelly and springy, might be improved by it. In some local spots, appropriated to the growth of underwood, such as Duncliff, in the Vale of Blackmore, Honeycombe Wood, in the Vale of Sherborne, and many others of a similar nature, the soil is chiefly cold and wet. The Downs are chiefly of a light chalky soil, with a turf remarkably fine. The Vale of Blackmore is surrounded with hills of a deep rich soil. The hay produced here is excellent, and the beasts thrive well on it in the winter without any other food. The meadow lands, through which run the Piddle and the Frome, by which they are watered, possess great quantities of lime-stone and pipe-clay. Neither coal nor ores of any kind are found in the county; but the whole Isle of Portland seems to be one entire mass of fine free-stone, and the quarries of Purbeck are well known for their valuable produce.

Digitized by Google

The general practice and management of tillage in this county is less attended to than any other part of agriculture; and though the Norfolk husbandry might be adopted with success, the idea appears to prevail, of putting all crops into the ground with as few ploughings as possible. The sowing of wheat is often effected with one ploughing; and symmetry and neatness are so much disregarded, that in small pieces of ground, the ploughman will vary three or four yards from a straight line, and persevere in his vagrant direction as a matter of no import. The plough used is called a *Sull*, and is long, large, and heavy: it has one very small wheel on the side of the beam, and is constantly worked by four horses, two a-breast, or six oxen in yokes. In most of the towns round Dorchester, land lets for a high price: pasture land from forty to fifty shillings per acre; and arable, at about thirty shillings. Garden ground is let out to manufacturers and artificers at four pounds per acre. Barley affords a great produce, and a large portion of malt is made for the internal consumption of the county: in some towns 10,000 or 12,000 bushels are made annually. The strong beer is famous: the ale is also particularly celebrated, and in some respects unequalled.

The growth of flax and hemp, and particularly the former, is of great agricultural importance, especially about *Bridport*, the village of Bradpole, and towards Beminster, where it is chiefly grown. The best seed is annually imported from *Riga*. The land is frequently let to a middle man, called a flax-jobber, who pays the farmer a net sum of four or five pounds per acre, manages the crop, finds the seed and labor, and expects nothing from the farmer, but ploughing, and the discharge of the parochial taxes.

" In managing the flax, the stalk is never thrown into water, as is the common practice of Lincolnshire, and other places, but attains its proper state more gradually by what is called *dew ripening*, which is acquired by exposing it to the air for a long time together. From eight to twelve bushels of seed per acre is esteemed a good crop. Dry seasons suit it best; and the farmers *think, if it* is not sown more than once in six years, it does not exhaust nor *injure*

Digitized by Google

injure the land. This crop is extremely valuable; and besides the seed, it produces from fifty to sixty dozen pounds weight per acre of spinning flax, worth from four shillings and sixpence to seven shillings per dozen. Its value is generally from eight to ten pounds an acre, including the seed; but it is a precarious crop, and much dependent on the seasons. The inferior seed, not good enough to be sown, is very valuable from its oily quality, which is extracted from it by its being first bruised in a mill, and then put into hair-cloths, and pressed by a heavy weight, when it produces the oil used by painters. Two gallons may be extracted from a bushel of seed, which weighs about forty-eight pounds. This operation is repeated by heating, and pressing again, till all the oil is effectually extracted; and the hull or husk produces the oil-cake, which is much esteemed for feeding cattle: the oil-cake *cold drawn* is the first pressed from the seed without heat, and is the most valuable."*

Lime is used in great quantities as a manure, and in general sells for about fourpence-halfpenny per bushel. Sea weed, or *kelp*, and putrid fish, are also used, particularly herrings; the latter of which have in all instances answered extremely well. The flooding of meadow land, by which an early vegetation is produced, is of such consequence to the Dorsetshire farmer, that, without it, their present system of managing sheep would almost be annihilated; and the proportion of water meadows is no where so great, or better managed. The meadows are laid up about Christmas, after all the grass has been fed down by cattle. The water is then caught from the river, and by a certain process thrown over the meadows, till the surface is covered, and this being repeated several weeks, by the middle of March, there is a sufficient supply of the best food for ewes and lambs.†

The chief products of Dorsetshire are corn, cattle, butter, sheep, wool, timber, flax, and hemp. The Dorsetshire cattle, particularly

* Claridge's General View of the Agriculture of Dorset.

† The process of watering meadows, with drawings of the best modes practised in the county, has been ably described in a very ingenious publication by Mr. George Boswell, of Piddletown, Dorsetshire.

Digitized by Google

larly the sheep, have long been celebrated. Dyer has enumerated this tract among the most favorite spots for the breeding of this useful animal.

> ———"Such Dorchestrian fields,
> Whose flocks innumerous whiten all the land."
>
> FLEECE.

Dorsetshire is supposed to contain not less than 800,000 sheep, of which number upwards of 150,000 are sold annually, and sent out of the county. They are highly esteemed for the fineness, shortness, and close texture of their wool, which is much used in the manufacture of broad cloth. The produce of this wool annually, is estimated at 90,000 weighs, or weights, of thirty-one pounds each.* The principal sheep country is round Dorchester, within eight miles of which place near 170,000 sheep and lambs are supposed to be kept. Many of the ewes are bought by the farmers within forty miles of London, for the sake of their lambs, which come earlier than most others, and are fattened for the London markets. Besides the peculiar Dorsetshire breed, there is a very small kind, in the Isles of Portland and Purbeck, and the neighbouring coast, inferior in size to the Welsh sheep. The flesh of these is sweet and well flavoured; and they are not subject to the rot, or *coath*, as it is termed by the shepherds; which is apt, in a wet season, to infect those fed in richer lands. The small breed, even when fat, weigh not more than eight or nine pounds a quarter. In one particular the sheep owners of Dorsetshire excel all other parts of the kingdom, which is, in providing ewes to yean at a remarkably early season.

The breed of horses is not particularly regarded. Oxen are frequently employed in agriculture; chiefly the red Devonshire ox, and a mixture of the Hampshire and Wiltshire. As cattle are very much used in the dairies, very little account is made of the size of the beast, or to shape or color: it is enough if likely to

* Among those who have endeavored to improve the Dorsetshire breed of sheep, is Mr. Bridge, of Wenford Eagle, who, by introducing Mr. Bakewell's Leicestershire breed, has increased their size, without apparently injuring their wool.

Digitized by Google

to make a good milker. The oxen of the Devonshire breed, when fattened, are esteemed the finest grained meat in the kingdom. The pigs of this county are of a light color, and are not so good as the Hampshire, and some other sorts.

The fish obtained on the coast of Dorsetshire are of various descriptions; but the *Mackerel fishery* is the most considerable. "Vast quantities of mackerel are caught near Abbotsbury, and along the shore from Portland to Bridport. They are generally first taken from the middle of March, if the season be not too cold, till Midsummer, and sometimes after, in nets, or seins; some of which are 100 or 120 fathoms long, and eight and a half deep in the bosom, accounting five feet to the fathom. One end is fastened to the shore; the other is carried out to sea in a boat: they then turn, and row parallel with the shore, veering out the net all the while, till it is all let go, except the line at the end; then the boat rows on shore, and the net is hauled in at both ends by men at land. They have sometimes caught 30 or 40,000 at a draught; and 100 have been sold for a penny. Between 1746 and 1758, very few mackerel were caught on this shore, which was imputed to the scouring of Bridport harbour.

"The fishery, in comparison with former years, has of late been very unproductive, for which no satisfactory reason can be assigned. Indeed, many of the fishermen, who are in general strongly influenced by superstitious motives, have heretofore attributed the failure of their endeavors to the commission of some enormities among themselves, or those of the neighbouring villages; such, for instance, as shooting the seins on a Sunday, manuring the land with superabundant fish in a plentiful season, or proceeding to sea on a Monday morning without having performed their usual devotions. Each of these irregularities is held in universal abhorrence; and should any hardened wretch dare to violate his conscience in either of these respects, his comrades look on him as the harbinger of some calamitous event. They expect that the fish will quit their coast, that misfortune will befall their boats or nets; or that themselves may become the victims of such crimes.

Digitized by Google

"Here we may observe, that the exposed situation of the coast renders the fishing very uncertain, even in the best of seasons. Whenever it blows (to use a local expression) a *cap full of wind* from the south or west points, there is a very large surf on the shore, so that it is not only dangerous to launch the boat, but the net could not be drawn with any probability of success, when tossed in every direction by the boisterous waves, which, instead of fish, would fill it with pebbles and floating sand. During the inclement season, the boats are dragged to the summit of the vast ridge that bounds this bay from the Isle of Portland."*

The principal manufacture of Dorsetshire is flax and hemp. This is chiefly carried on in the neighbourhood of Bridport and Beminster. A manufacture of the same kind, but on a smaller scale, is established in the Isle of Purbeck. At Shaftesbury is a manufactory for making all kinds of shirt-buttons, which employs great numbers of women and children: a sort of flannel, or coarse white woollen cloth, is likewise made at this town, called *swanskin:* the chief trade in this latter article is, however, carried on at Sherminster. A large manufactory of shirt-buttons is also carried on at Blandford. At Stalbridge is a manufactory for spinning silk; and at Sherborne is a second, upon a larger scale. At Wimborne, considerable business is transacted in the worsted stocking branch; and upwards of 1000 women and children are employed in knitting.

Before we conclude the general description of Dorsetshire, it may be expedient to mention a few particulars of the *Roman stations* and *roads;* particularly as the knowledge afforded by the labors of Dr. Stukeley and Mr. Hutchins, have induced a degree of certainty on these subjects with respect to this county, that is not to be found in most others. Dr. Stukeley travelled over a great part of the *Via Iceniana*, or Icenning Way, which he pursued from Venta Icenorum *(Caister)* in Norfolk, through Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire, and enters this county near Woodyates. Before it reaches Woodyates Inn, it goes through an inclosure on the

* Hutchins's History of Dorsetshire, Vol. II. p. 280. 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

the right hand of the road, and pursues its way over the down to Blandford. On this down it appears perfectly entire; but has since been destroyed for the sake of the materials. That it was made posterior to the barrows which it passes at a mile from Woodyates-Lane, is evident, from its passing over one of them. The Doctor loses the road at Long Critchill; but here the chasm of information is supplied by the researches of Mr. Hutchins, who traces its continuation to Badbury Camp. After this it crosses Badbury Down, and seemingly was here composed of flint, the workmen not finding any other materials when they crossed it by the turnpike-road from Blandford to Wimborne. At Shipwick Marsh it appears low; but making a short turn to the left beyond Stourminster, continues with a bold elevation to Almer inclosures. Proceeding hence towards Stinford-Lane, it enters Dorchester on the north side of St. Peter's, and by Trinity Church. Having past the west end of the town, it appears again high and broad; and, at four miles distance, takes the name of Ridge-way, on account of its mounting the ridge of a hill, and commanding a large prospect of the adjoining country. From Eggerton Hill it is very visible; and proceeds to Poorstock. It finally takes its course to Seaton, in Devonshire, where being intercepted by the Foss Way, the Icenning-Way takes a different, but necessary direction, westward towards Exeter. There are several smaller ways proceeding from Dorchester, Wimborne Minster, and some other places in the county; but these are of inferior consideration. The Roman stations, according to the best authorities, appear to have been LONDINIS, *Lyme Regis;* CANCA ARIXA, *Charmouth;* DURNOVARIA, *Dorchester;* VINDOGLADIA, *Wimborne Minster;* CLAVINIO, *Weymouth;* MORINIO, *Wareham;* BOLCLAUNIO, *Poole.* Among these, in various directions, numerous barrows are dispersed, as well as other memorials of our British ancestors.

The principal RIVERS of Dorsetshire are the Frome, the Stour, the Piddle, and the Ivel. The *Frome* rises in the north-western part of the county, near Evershot, and having received some smaller streams from the vicinity of Hook Park, flows by Catstock, Maiden Newton, Frampton, and Bradford Peveril, to Dorchester. Thence

Digitized by Google

Thence passing to the south-east, it receives the waters of the Winterbourne, at Frome Belet, and flowing onward, passes Moreton, Bindon, and Wareham, about three miles from which it falls into Poole Bay.

The *Stour* enters this county from Wiltshire, near Gillingham, below which it gives name to several villages. For some miles its course is nearly south; but having reached Sturminster, it proceeds in a south-eastwardly direction towards Blandford, Sturminster-Marshall, Wimborne, and Parley, at a little distance from which it enters Hampshire. Several rivulets flow into it during its progress through this county.

The *Piddle*, called Trent by Asser, rises northward of Piddle Trenthyde Church, and flowing to the south-east, gives name to several small villages and hamlets: near Keysworth, it unites with the waters of Poole Bay.

The *Ivel*, anciently named Yoo, has its origin from several springs, at a place called Horethorn, in a hill north-east from Sherborne; from which town it flows into Somersetshire, and falls into the Parret.

Dorsetshire was anciently the See of a Bishop, but was afterwards connected, at different periods, with the Sees of Oxford, Winchester, Sherborne, and Sarum: it was separated from the latter in the thirty-first of Henry the Eighth, when it was constituted part of the newly-erected bishopric of Bristol, to which it still belongs. It sends twenty Members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, and two for each of the following places: Dorchester, Poole, Lyme-Regis, Weymouth, and Melcombe-Regis; Bridport, Shaftesbury, Wareham, and Corfe Castle; pays nine parts of the land-tax, and supplies the militia with 640 men.

DORCHESTER

EVIDENTLY existed in the British ages, as its Roman name, *Durnovaria*, or, the Passage of the River, is a word of British extraction. Richard of Cirencester calls it respectively by this name, and that of *Durinum;* but Antoninus by the former. Ptolemy calls

Digitized by Google

calls it *Dunium*, which some copies erroneously read *Durnium*. Both are probably only corruptions from *Durinum*. *Dunim* meant, according to Mr. Baxter, the Maiden-Castle; and *Durnovaria*, the Town. This is, however, against the express testimony of Ptolemy, who calls *Dunium*, the Town of the Durotriges. These, therefore, are only different names assigned to the same place in different ages.

Durnovaria, according to Camden, meant a Passage over the Water, or river of the *Varia;* a name that Baxter contends was anciently given to the Frome, which flows by the town. Dr. Skinner, from the Cambro-British, defines *Varia* to be a ford, or bridge. Vulgar tradition ascribes the name to a King Dorn, from a species of Roman coin found here, which they called *Dorn-pennies*. The true etymology of Durnovaria is probably from *Varia*, the British name of the Frome, and a contraction of *Durnium*, or *Dunium*, meaning a Place on or near the River, or Water, of *Varia*. Dorchester was by the Saxons called *Dornceaster*, from the British *Dwyr*, and the Saxon *Chester*, a corruption from the Roman *Castrum*, a Camp, or Town: hence the Latin name *Dorcestria*, in ancient records, and the modern name Dorchester, is clearly derived.

"In the Itineraries of Antoninus and Richard of Cirencester, Dorchester appears as a Roman station: and, indeed, the ancient walls, the *Via Iceniana*, on which it stands, the several vicinal roads that issue hence, coins, and other pieces of antiquity found here, Maiden Castle, the Amphitheatre,"* and camp at Poundbury, near it, shew it to have been then a place of consideration.

Dorchester was of considerable importance under the Saxons, and had, from Athelstan, the grant of two mints; a privilege he only extended to cities and walled towns. In 1003, Sueyn, King of Denmark, having landed in Cornwall, to revenge the massacre of his countrymen, after ravaging that county and Devon, directed his march to this town, which he besieged, and burnt, and afterwards threw down the walls, probably for the obstinate defence they enabled the besieged to make. Camden mentions many of the

* Hutchins's History of Dorsetshire, Vol. II. p. 6. 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

the burying-places, or tumuli, of these Danes as being scattered round the town. The devastation they committed appears from the Domesday Book, which states that, in the time of Edward the Confessor, "there were 172 houses, which defended themselves for all the King's services, but which were then reduced to eighty-eight, a 100 having been totally demolished from the time of Hugh, the High Sheriff."

No event of importance is recorded in the annals of Dorchester, from the period of the Conquest till the reign of Elizabeth; when between the years 1587, and 1594, no less than six persons were put to death in this town on the score of religion, and in consequence of the severe penal statutes then in being. There is nothing, however, particular in their cases from those of many others who suffered in different parts of the kingdom on a similar account. In the year 1595, a dreadful plague broke out, which proved so destructive, that the living were not sufficient to bury the dead.

On the sixth of August, 1613, Dorchester was partly destroyed by fire. It began at a Tallow-Chandler's, who having made too great a blaze under his caldron, the flame took hold of the tallow, and communicated to the house, and the wind being high, carried the flame all over the town. In this fire were consumed 300 houses, besides the two Churches of the Holy Trinity, and All-Saints. The loss was estimated at 200,000l. A second conflagration, of which there are no particulars, is said to have happened in the year 1662.

Dorchester is recorded, by the Historian of the Civil Wars, as having been particularly disaffected to the Royal Cause, more so than any place in England. He terms it the *magazine* whence the other places were supplied with the principles of rebellion; and, a seat of great malignity. It was one of the first places fortified against the King; and though neither strong by nature, nor hardly capable of being made so by art, these disadvantages were supposed to be more than counterbalanced by the spirit and obstinacy of its inhabitants.

The fortifications were begun in 1643, and carried on with the greatest activity; and during some part of the period in which they

Digitized by Google

they were constructing, the town's-people worked day and night. They appear, notwithstanding all this preparation, to have relinquished the town without striking a blow, on the approach of the Earl of Caernarvon with 2000 men; and the news that Prince Maurice was on his march: the Governor contrived previously to make his escape to Southampton. After this event, the town was dismantled, and not being again garrisoned, it lay open during the remainder of the war to those who were masters of the field.

"In March 1645, Cromwell lying here with all his own horse, and the united forces from Taunton, Poole, and Weymouth, 4000 in all, General Goring had notice of it, and advanced towards them with 1500 horse, the rest of the army and cannon being ordered to follow for securing the retreat. Eight hundred of the rebel horse disputed a pass over a little river; but some of Goring's horse facing them there, whilst others got in behind them, they presently quitted the pass, and fled; and his Lordship following them almost hither full four miles, took many, with two colours of horse, and great store of carbines and pistols; and killed more. Their forces were so beaten and scattered, that of 4000 at first, they durst not next morning draw out of the town against 1500 of his Lordship's horse, though his other horse, foot, and cannon, were full six miles behind."*

At the assizes in September, 1685, held here before the infamous Judge Jefferies, on account of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, thirty persons were tried in one day, and no less than twenty-one were found guilty, and condemned. The succeeding day, 292 pleaded guilty, and were likewise condemned; of these eighty were ordered for execution. On the seventh of September, thirteen of the number suffered. John Tutchin, author of the *Observator*, whom Pope notices in his Dunciad, was sentenced to be whipped through every town in the county once a year, to be imprisoned seven years, and to pay a fine of 100 marks. He solicited rather to be hanged than undergo this cruel sentence, on which

* Hutchins's History of Dorsetshire, Vol. II. p. 8. 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

which he was reprieved, and at length pardoned. The bloody intentions of Jefferies may, perhaps, be estimated from the circumstance of his having ordered the Court to be hung with scarlet on the morning of trial.

The manor of Dorchester was in the possession of the Crown previous to the Conquest, but was afterwards granted to several persons for terms, and frequently to the Burgesses for life, before the time of Henry the First. The same practice continued as late as the twenty-first of Henry the Sixth, when the town was granted to the Burgesses for ever. Their privileges were afterwards confirmed by Charter in the second of Richard the Third, and again by Elizabeth, who granted some additional immunities. In the reign of James the First, the farm rent of 20l. per annum, by which they held, was respectively granted to Henry, Prince of Wales, (14 Jam. I.) and Prince Charles. This rent is at present enjoyed by the Earl of Hardwicke; and the manor of the borough, together with the toll of the markets, and fairs, is vested in the Corporation.

In the time of Edward the Third, the government of the town was vested in Bailiffs and Burgesses. James the First increased the number of Burgesses to fifteen, with permission to chuse a Recorder, and other officers. In the following reign it was incorporated, under a Mayor, two Bailiffs, six Aldermen, six Capital Burgesses, a Governor, and twenty-four Common-Councilmen. This borough has returned members to Parliament ever since the twenty-third of Edward the First. The right of election was formerly claimed by the inhabitants paying scot and lot; but this right has, by a late determination, been adjudged to be equally vested in non-residents, provided they are possessed of real estates within the borough, and have paid the church and poor-rates. The electors are at present about 200.

Dorchester is delightfully situated on an ascent above the river Frome, which bounds it on the north side, at the distance of about six miles from the British Channel; and on the south and west, it opens on pleasant downs, intermixed with corn fields. The view is every way uncommonly pleasant; and the numerous flocks of sheep which whiten the plains, the river with its winding course,

Digitized by Google

course, and the gently rising hills in the distance, altogether give it an enchanting effect. The town forms an irregular square; though, in former times, as appears from observation, it most probably made a complete one. It consists principally of three spacious streets, which join each other about the middle: these, with the subordinate ones, are well paved, and, in general, adorned with handsome buildings of brick and stone. Those of most eminence are, the three Churches of St. Peter's, Trinity, and All Saints; the Town-Hall, the County-Hall, and the New Gaol.

St. Peter's Church is a large handsome structure, standing near the centre of the town, and consisting of a chancel, nave, and side aisles; the tower, which rises to the height of ninety feet, is adorned with pinnacles and battlements; this, though only a Chapel of ease to the Holy Trinity, is esteemed the principal Church in the town. It possesses a few monuments of distinguished persons, and some inscriptions, curious on account of their antiquity. Among the former is a monument to the memory of DENZEL, Lord Holles, Baron of Ifield: it is of white marble, supported by variegated marble pillars, and enriched with the different arms and quarterings of the family. The effigies of Lord Holles appear in a robe of loose drapery, in a cumbent posture, leaning his right elbow on a cushion. The inscription is of considerable length, in Latin and English. A second monument worthy observation, is erected to the memory of SIR JOHN WILLIAMS, of Herringstone, Knight, whose family are considered as the builders, or re-builders, of the Church. His statue in armour, bare-headed, and kneeling, is placed under a canopy, supported by four pillars. The statue of his wife, under a similar canopy, and in a like posture, is placed near him. The whole is adorned with painting and gilding in the usual style of the age when he died, 1617. The inscription sets forth, that they lived together man and wife, for the space of fifty years, in which time they had issue seven sons and four daughters. Sir John died at the age of seventy-two. "His Lady left alone, lived alone;" and having attained her eightieth year, "she was again joined unto her husband

Digitized by Google

band in this place." In a vault near the above monument lie SIR FRANCIS ASHLEY and his Lady. He was Steward of the Marshalsea to Charles the First, King's-Sergeant, and Recorder of Dorchester, and died at Sergeant's Inn, Fleet-Street, November the twenty-eighth, 1635. Many other funeral memorials, of lesser importance, are scattered about the Church; and among them, some inscriptions venerable for their antiquity. On the floor, on a coarse grey marble, is the effigies of a woman in an antique dress, kneeling. Over her head a label,

Miserere mei D'ns s'dum magnam m'iam tuam.

Under her was another inscription, on a brass plate, now torn off, but preserved in the Church:

Hic jacet Johanna de Ste Omero, relicta Rob'ti Wore, que obiit in vigilia Ste Trinitatis Sc'do Die mensis ... Anno D'ni MCCCCXXXVI cuj' A'ie p'piciet 'D'Amen.

But the most curious relics of antiquity in this edifice, are the effigies of two warriors. The first, in the north aisle, lies on a stone coffin, under the fourth window: "he is crosse legged, and completely armed in a coat of mail, and helmet, which covers the greatest part of the face, and resembles those which Speed, in his Chronicle, represents on the seals of Henry the Second and Richard the First. He has a belt, spurs, sword, and shield; on which last are no arms. His hand rests on a cushion, his feet on a lion or dog."* There is little doubt but this figure represents one of the early crusaders, and consequently must be of a great age. In the south window is the second figure, which is in every respect similar to the former. These monuments are supposed to have belonged to the *Chidiocks*, founders of the neighbouring Priory; and, on the demolition of the Priory Church, are believed to have been removed hither; though this fact is not sufficiently ascertained. "One of these figures is said, by tradition, to be founder of the Church, and vulgarly called *Geoffery Vann*, or rather *Ann*; for, about 1680, was dug up in a garden in this down, a seal, on which was a crescent, surmounted with a star, and round it, Sigillvm GALFRIDI DE ANN."† The

* Hutchins, Vol. II. ad Edit. † Ibid.

Digitized by Google

The Churches of the *Holy Trinity* and *All Saints* are not remarkable either for antiquity or beauty: the towers of both are low. The former contains an elegant white marble tablet to the memory of the late DR. WILLIAM CUMING, who practised physic in this town and county during the space of forty-nine years. The epitaph informs us of his being, at his own desire, buried in the Church-Yard rather than the Church, "lest he, who studied whilst living to promote the health of his fellow citizens, should prove detrimental to it when dead."

The Town-Hall is situated at a small distance from St. Peter's Church. It was erected by the Corporation in the year 1791, and is a spacious and handsome edifice, having a Market-Place under it; and behind it, two rows of convenient shops for the use of the town butchers. *The Shire-Hall* is a plain neat building, having a front of Portland-stone, and a pediment in the centre. The courts are well contrived, and commodiously fitted up; and the building is altogether suited to the purposes for which it was erected.

The New Gaol is situated on the north side of the town; the old one, being small and inconvenient, was sold by auction for 1220l. In the present building are united the County Gaol, Penitentiary House, and House of Correction. The plan adopted is that recommended by Mr. Howard. The architect was the late ingenious Mr. Bradburn. The expence of the erection was 16,179l. 10s. 6d.

This edifice, in its external appearance, is peculiarly handsome and characteristic; and the interior possesses every convenience appropriate to its destination. The buildings consist of a lodge, keeper's house, chapel, debtors' day rooms, female fines, and female debtors' rooms, visiting rooms for male debtors, fines, felons' infirmaries, &c. and of four wings, detached from, but communicating with, the centre building on each story, by means of cast iron bridges from the several galleries. There are separate sleeping cells for eighty-eight prisoners, which are distributed in the several buildings; and two airy dormitories for male debtors, each containing four beds, to be used in case the number exceeds

Digitized by Google

that which can be accommodated in the debtors' wing; besides four cells for condemned prisoners, light and airy; four over these perfectly dark, yet airy, for the refractory; and six reception cells, which last are fitted up in the lodge. The distribution is such, that not only the male prisoners are separated from the female, and the felons from the debtors, fines, &c. but those of each description are subdivided into classes; and for each class, by means of distinct stair-cases, separate subdivisions are appropriated, with courts, work-rooms, &c. to each. The female fines, and female debtors, have each a commodious room, with every possible convenience, over the male debtors' dormitories, and under the two infirmaries, separate and detached from every part of the building, except the keeper's house and court, to which they have access through the chapel.

"In the reception cells, in the lodge, prisoners are placed immediately on their entrance, until they can be examined by the surgeon, and thoroughly cleaned, for which purpose here are a hot and a cold bath. If in a foul or infectious state, they remain there till the surgeon pronounces them fit to be removed into the interior parts of the prison. They are then sent to their proper classes; and all felons are apparelled in the Gaol uniform; and their own clothes, if fit to be preserved, are fumigated in a kiln, and laid by in the wardrobe till their liberation, or are delivered to the care of their friends. There are also two rooms in the lodge for the habitation of the task-master, and a small one for one of the turnkeys; a wardrobe; a room containing one of Stockdale's mills for grinding corn, and every other requisite for grinding and for dressing the flour, where all the corn used for supplying the prison is ground, and which is found to answer extremely well; a committee room for the magistrates to transact business in; an office for the gaoler; a bake-house and brew-house, with iron boilers, an oven, and other conveniencies for cooking for the prisoners; and on the top of the lodge there is a flat roof covered with copper, on which executions take place, in view of all the criminal prisoners."* The regulations for the government of this prison

* Hutchins, Vol. II.

Digitized by Google

prison correspond in propriety and utility with the excellence of the building, and altogether confer the highest credit on the persons concerned. Many Roman coins were discovered in digging the foundation of the prison; and, among others, of Antoninus Pius, Vespasianus, Constantinus, Carausius, Saloninus Valerianus, Fla. Valens, and Gallienus.

Dorchester contains two Free-Schools: one of them erected and endowed by Mr. Thomas Hardy, of Melcombe Regis, about the year 1569; the other endowed by the Corporation about 1623, and intended as a subordinate school to the former. Here are likewise two Alms-Houses, with other charitable donations, but to no great extent.

This town was fortified by the Romans with a wall and foss quite round, and two exterior ramparts to the south and west, which are still visible; though they are in many places levelled by the plough. The high ground on the north rendered any advanced works there unnecessary. On the west side, part of the old Roman wall was standing till the Summer of 1802; this was six feet thick, and in some places twelve feet high. The foundation was laid on the solid chalk, and the wall formed of rag-stones, laid side by side, in an oblique direction, and then covered over with very strong mortar. The next course was generally carried the contrary way, and occasionally three horizontal ones for binding: much flint was also used. Considerably more of the wall remained within memory, and some of the foundations appear in other places: "On the east a small lane is built upon it, and the ditch filled up; though it is still called the *walls*. Great part of the remains were levelled or destroyed in making the walks round the town. About the year 1764, eighty-five feet of the wall were pulled down, and only seventy-seven left standing. The method of making them seems to have been by building two parallel walls, and filling up the interval between them with hot cement or mortar, and with flint and stones promiscuously used."* The area included by the walls was about eighty acres.

* Hutchins, Vol. II. p. 31.

Digitized by Google

Numerous Roman coins of the different metals, formerly called by the vulgar, *Dorn's Pennies*, have been dug up in different parts of Dorchester: and in 1750, a gold ring, half an inch thick, valued at 3l. 17s. 6d. was discovered in the river Frome. But the most perfect and curious relic of antiquity, was a bronze image of a Roman Mercury, seated on a fragment of rock, about four inches and a half high, discovered in the back garden of the principal Free-School; and a considerable fragment of a tesselated pavement. The number of houses in this town, as returned under the late act, was 353; of inhabitants, 2042; of these 1078 were males, and 1327 females.

The environs of Dorchester are extremely pleasant. The view of the town, with the tower of St. Peter's Church, and that of Fordington, near Dorchester, appear on every quarter with advantage: the surrounding country is level and fruitful; every where covered with sheep, of which not less than 600,000 were computed to have formerly fed within a circuit of six miles, and that number is of late much increased. The immediate vicinity of the town, on the south and west, and part of the north and east, is surrounded by agreeable walks, planted with rows of limes and sycamore trees, as are most of the principal avenues.

This neighbourhood presents several objects of *historical* research, and highly interesting to curiosity. "The extended plains of Dorsetshire," observes Mr. Gilpin, "however *desolate* they now appear, have once been busy scenes: the antiquary finds rich employment among them for his curiosity. To follow him in quest of every heaving hillock, and to hear a discussion of conjectures about the traces of a Danish or a Roman mattock, where the eye of common observation perceives no traces at all, might be tedious; but he shows us several fragments of antiquity on these plains, which are truly curious; and convinces us that few places in England have been more considerable in Roman times than Dorchester. POUNDBURY and MAIDEN CASTLE are both extraordinary remains of Roman stations. Numberless tumuli also are thrown up all over the downs: these were antiquities in the times even of the Romans themselves. But the most valuable

fragment

Digitized by Google

fragment on these plains is a ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE, which retains its complete form to this day."*

The *Roman Amphitheatre*, allowed to be the most perfect of its kind remaining in England, was first publicly noticed by Sir Christopher Wren, who had observed it in his journies to the Isle of Portland. It was afterwards examined by the indefatigable Dr. Stukeley, who inserted a particular description of it, with five drawings, in his Itinerarium Curiosum; but his relation is in several respects more fanciful than just. The most complete account is that published in Hutchins's improved edition of Dorsetshire, and of which the following is an extract.

This Amphitheatre, called *Maumbury*,† by the vulgar, "is situated on a plain in the open fields, about a quarter of a mile south-west from the walls of Dorchester, close by the Roman road which runs thence to Weymouth. It is raised on the solid chalk upon a level; the jambs at the entrance are somewhat worn away. Half the work is above five feet and a half under the surface of the ground; the greater part of the chalk was dug out of the cavity within, and the rest fetched from elsewhere: probably it was framed of solid chalk, cemented by mortar made of burnt chalk, and covered with turf.

"This is artfully set on the top of a plain, declining to the north-east, whereby the rays of the sun falling upon the ground hereabouts, is thrown off to a distance by reflection; and the upper end of the Amphitheatre, for the major part of the day, has the sun behind the spectators. The whole is delineated from four centres. In the ground it is a true circle, (oval;) but upon the plain became a walk of eight feet broad, gradually ascending from the ends upon the longest diameter to its highest elevation in the middle upon the shortest diameter, where it reaches up the whole series of seats of the spectators, who marching hence, distribute themselves therein, from all sides, without hurry or tumult. On

* Observations on the Western Parts of England, 1798.

† *Maum* is a word used in Oxfordshire, to signify "land consisting of white clay and chalk, of which this work is chiefly composed."

Digitized by Google

the top is a terrace of twelve feet, besides the parapet, outwardly five feet broad, and four high. There are three ways leading up to the terrace; one at the upper end, over the *Cavea*, and one at each side upon the shortest diameter, going from the elevated part of the circular work. Several horses abreast may go upon this, ascending by the ruins of the cavea: this receptacle of the gladiators, wild beasts, &c. is supposed to have been at the upper end, under the ascent to the terrace, there being vaults under that part of the body of the work. The area is no doubt exceedingly elevated by manuring and ploughing for many years, yet it still preserves a concavity, for the descent from the entrance is very great, and you may go down as into a shallow pit. The middle part of it is now ten or twelve feet lower than the level of the field; and that, especially about the entrance, is much lowered by ploughing; because the end of the circular walk there, which should be even with the ground, is a good deal above it, and has filled up the adjoining part of the area with its ruins. On the outside of the upper end is a large round tumor, a considerable way beyond the exterior verge, and regular in figure, which certainly has been somewhat appertaining to the work. On the shortest diameter, but towards the upper end, are two rising square plots, four feet above the level of the walk, or terrace, capable of holding twenty-four people each. There is a seeming irregularity of the terrace on both sides at the lower end, for it is higher within than without; yet this produces no ill effect; for when you stand in the centre within, the whole surface of the terrace seems of one level; but on the outside, the verge of the north-eastwardly part is sloped off gradually towards the entrance, where the declivity is conformable with it: hence the exterior contour also appears of an equal height. The circular walks cut the whole breadth into two equal parts, upon the shortest diameter, probably making an equal number of seats above and under it.

" Dr. Stukeley observes, that this Amphitheatre is computed to consist of about an acre of ground; and by an accurate admeasurement taken for this work, it was found that the greatest perpendicular height of the rampart above the level of the *Arena*, was thirty

Digitized by Google

thirty feet; the external longest diameter, 343 feet, 6 inches; the external shortest diameter, 339 feet, 6 inches; the internal longest diameter, 218 feet; the internal shortest diameter, 163 feet, 6 inches; and the first ascent from the arena to the greatest curve height, is thirty feet. The breadth of the side of the work, or solid, taken upon the ground-plot, is equal to one half of the longest diameter of the area, or a fourth of the whole longest diameter. Its perpendicular altitude, from the top of the terrace to the bottom of the area, is a fourth of the longest diameter of the area. In the middle of each side is a *Cuneus*, or parcel of seats, of nearly thirty feet broad, just over the more elevated part of the circular work, reaching up to the terrace, which swells out above the concavity of the whole, and answers to the rising ground in the middle of the terrace. Some years ago a silver coin was ploughed up here, which fell into the hands of Mr. Pownall, of Lincoln; on the face was this inscription: IMP. M. IVL. PHILIPVS. AVG. on the reverse, LÆTAT. FVNDAT. and a Genius, or Fortune, with a garland in her right hand, and the helm of a ship in the left. This Emperor reigned in the year 240; but the Amphitheatre was probably made under the government of Agricola,"* who, as we are informed by Tacitus, encouraged the building of temples, baths, and other works of luxury, or recreation, that the fierce and rough tempers of the Britons might be softened.

The number of spectators that could be accommodated in this work, was computed by Dr. Stukeley at 12,960;† and at the

 execution

* Hutchins, Vol. II. p. 343, 344, ad Edit.

† The most considerable Amphitheatre on the Continent was the *Colisæum* at Rome, which was began by the Emperor Vespasian, and completed by Titus. This, in its external circumference, comprehended a superficies of five acres and a half, and is said to have contained 87,000 spectators. Its general form was similar to that at Dorchester; and, indeed, all the Amphitheatres of which we have any particulars, were elliptical. The area of the Amphitheatre, where the exhibitions were presented, was called the *Arena*, because it was covered with sand, or saw-dust, to prevent the gladiators from sliding, and to absorb the

Digitized by Google

execution of Mary Channing, who was burnt here for poisoning her husband in the year 1705, upwards of 10,000 persons are supposed

the blood. The *Cavea* was the place where the wild beasts were confined, and opened into the Arena. The part surrounding the Arena, and more elevated, was named the *Podium*, and contained the places for the Emperor, Senators, and foreign Ambassadors: behind the Senators were the seats for the Equites. The remaining space, which gradually widened from the Arena to the top, was appropriated to the spectators generally.

The description of the Amphitheatre at Dove, in France, as given by Lipsius, in his *De Amphitheatris*, has been thus translated in the new edition of Hutchins's Dorset, in which also is a plate, with two explanatory views. "The Amphitheatre was formed in the solid hill of red stone, covered with a coat of earth or grass. At first view this cavity might be taken for a stone quarry; but on closer examination, the rows of the seats will be observed, beginning from the very top, and decreasing downwards. They are rendered irregular by being covered with dust and grass; but the person who showed them to Lipsius, had made out fifty-four rows; the highest 742 feet in circumference, and 236 in length. At the lowest is a wall, nine feet thick, which supported the *Podium*, and inclosed the Arena. In the centre of the Arena is a round raised hill of the same stone, rather more than seven feet high, and thirty in diameter, smooth and level at top, except the slope to the sides. In this hill were six round holes, equidistant, five feet diameter, with coverings of the same stone, somewhat larger than the holes, in which the marks of rust showed iron rings had been inserted. These holes led down by *thirteen small* winding steps, lighted by nineteen holes cut in the sides of the hill, one hole serving two stairs. In the centre of this hill is a larger cavity, or *round well*; and round its base a lower area, fifteen feet wide, extending to the Podium; so that the whole diameter of the Arena is sixty feet. Near this Amphitheatre are two large round chambers, cut out distinct in the same stony hill, about eighty feet wide at bottom, but narrowing at top, where each has a round hole, nine feet wide, to light it, as from a dome. These chambers are of equal dimensions, and differ only, in that one alone has any way out, and communicates with the other by a short arched passage, and by another *under-ground*, leading to the hillock in the Arena, and by those stairs to little doors under all the steps of the seats, and the whole Amphitheatre.

"From the hillock and little doors in the centre, Lipsius inclined to think this was rather intended for scenic exhibitions, than for races or combats; or perhaps for both purposes. The tradition of the place says, that in 1536, Francis the First allowed some strolling players to exhibit the Acts of the Apostles in this Amphitheatre for thirty days, which proved so profitable to the inhabitants, that they obtained a grant to prevent the digging stone within thirty perches of it, to prevent its destruction."

Digitized by Google

supposed to have been present. The views from the top of the mound are very extensive; and derive considerable interest from Poundbury, Maiden Castle, and the southern hills covered with barrows, all which are included within reach of the eye.

Poundbury Camp is situated about half a mile west of Dorchester, on the brink of the river Frome, having a very abrupt descent on that side. Its name appears to have been derived from the Latin *Pomœrium*, which, according to Livy, was "a space of ground both within and without the walls of a city, which the augurs at its first building solemnly consecrated, and on which no edifices were suffered to be raised."* Its form is an irregular parallelogram; the south side of the vallum being considerably shorter than the north side. The vallum is very lofty, but appears to have been discontinued on the north side; or, perhaps, has been worn away: on the east, it seems to have been double; on this side was the principal entrance: another entrance, next the river, "was made with the greatest art; a narrow path being drawn all along between the edge of the precipice and the vallum; and beyond the camp, west, for a long way, a small trench is cut upon the said edge, which seems designed to prevent the ascent of cavalry, if they should pass the river.†" The breadth of the area is 147 paces, and its length, 378: towards the middle, the ground is considerably elevated; and near the south side is a barrow, which Dr. Stukeley imagined to be Celtic, and extant before the camp was made. This gentleman was induced, from the situation, size, and form, of this camp, so much resembling that near Amesbury, in Wiltshire, to suppose that it was made by Vespasian, when the latter was employed in the conquest of the Belgæ. But Camden, Speed, and some other antiquaries, ascribe it to the Danes, who besieged Dorchester under King Sweyn.

Maiden Castle, one of the most strong and extensive camps in England, occupies the entire apex of a hill, about one mile south-west of Dorchester, to which garrison this is supposed to have been the *Castra Æstiva*, or summer station. Its form is an irregular ellipsis, surrounded by treble ditches and ramparts; the former are

* Hutchins, Vol. I. p. 343, 2d Edit. † Stukeley.

Digitized by Google

are of prodigious depth; and the latter extremely high, and very steep. The entrances to the east and west are strengthened by additional works; the ends of the ramparts lapping over each other, and rendering the outlets very winding and intricate. The inner rampart includes an area of about forty-four acres, and is nearly a mile and a quarter in circumference. The area is divided into two parts by a low ditch and bank, extending from north to south; and near the south side, where the ramparts are low, there appears to have been another entrance. Here also is the mouth of a cave, or subterraneous passage, said, by tradition, to extend a considerable way; though it is now choaked up, and impassable. The design of this has not been ascertained; though it seems probable that it was made for the purpose of obtaining water, the river flowing through the valley at the distance of about a quarter of a mile. The ground rises gradually to the centre of the area, which commands an exceedingly wide prospect, and embraces a very numerous assemblage of barrows, that overspread the tops of the hills to the south. The whole extent of the works, from east to west, is 1194 yards: the length of the area in the same direction, 760: the extent of the works, from north to south, is 544 yards; the breadth of the area from the same points, 275. The vicinal way, leading from Dorchester to Weymouth, passes near the east side; and another vicinal way connects the west entrance with the *Via Iceniana*.

This great and commanding fortress, though commonly supposed to be a Roman work, is, by Mr. King, ascribed to the Britons, and certainly with every appearance of probability. "It is not easily to be imagined," observes this gentleman, "that the Romans would have been at the inconceivable labor of erecting mud walls of so astonishing a magnitude, in such a spot, when they were so well acquainted with the great preference of stone ramparts, used by them in so many other places: and it is no less unaccountable that they should, contrary to their usual mode, prefer such a barbarous and irregular form. Neither can any satisfactory reason be assigned, why no Roman bricks nor coins have been found here, when so many are found at *Maumbury*, a much inferior work.

Digitized by Google

work. To which I may add, that here also, near the south entrance, has been found the mouth of a cavern; a peculiarity that coincides with some *aboriginal hill fortresses*, but not with any of those of the Romans. And, indeed, the manner in which the whole interior part is divided, as it were, into two camps, by a ditch and vallum running across, (whilst each camp has its proper entrance, with perplexed banks and ditches, like those at Old Sarum,) correspond much more nearly with the different spaces contrived for the cattle of the country, and for the armed men, on the *Herefordshire Beacon*, and on the *Catterthun*, (an ancient work in Scotland,) and on some other British fortresses, than with the separation of a Roman Prætorium from the rest of a Roman camp, which subdivision, we find, was always made by them in a different manner.

"From these circumstances, therefore, together with the near-adjoining situation of a vast number of tumuli, and barrows, reaching for nearly ten miles, and very different from any works of the Romans, we may conclude, Maiden Castle to have been a British fortress. The appearance of its ditches, its entrances somewhat resembling those at Old Sarum, and every thing about it, are British: and the *Via Iceniana* running within a mile of it, only shows, that such a strong and original British post determined the Romans to bring a road this way. They might also, indeed, when conquerors, find it not inconvenient for a military post, and might therefore make some use of it, as they doubtless did of several other British fortresses: but how unlike was the whole of the construction here, to that at Richborough, (in Kent,) which latter must have been one of their first establishments on this Island, and which gives us decidedly their general plan."*

FORDINGTON, a large village adjoining Dorchester on the east, was, in the time of Edward the Third, held of the Duchy of Cornwall, by Isabella, the Queen dowager, who had a grant of a weekly market and three days fair. The manor was afterwards granted

* Munimenta Antiqua, Vol. I. p. 39. For a particular description of the Roman fortress at Richborough, see the second volume of the same work.

Digitized by Google

granted to various persons by the Crown for terms of lives; but in the thirteenth of James the First, was bestowed on Charles, Prince of Wales, in which principality it is now vested. The Church is an ancient structure, situated to great advantage on a rising ground, and built in the form of a cross. In the south aisle are two round pillars with Saxon capitals, but the arches springing from them are pointed. Over the porch of the south entrance is "rudely carved in stone, the effigies of St. George on horseback, armed with a lance, and combating the enemy, armed as in the Bayeux tapestry. Behind him are two figures kneeling, and their hands erected in the same armour; their shields and lances set up behind them."* The east end of Fordington has been called *Icen Town* time immemorially; probably from its proximity to the Icenning Way. The road leading into it was formerly extremely dangerous, through passing over a moor, which in a wet season was flooded to a great extent; but this inconvenience was remedied through the public spirit of Mrs. Lora Pitt, of Kingston House, who, in the year 1747, made a new causeway, 1980 feet long, and 36 broad, at the expence of 1500l. and also built a bridge of three arches over a branch of the river Frome. In making the causeway, a *Roman Hypocaust* was discovered; many of the bricks retained marks of fire, but not any of them were perfect: various pieces of glass vessels were also found. About the same period, in digging chalk near the Pound, more than 200 *skeletons* were discovered, lying at the depth of four or five feet; near one of them was part of a sword-blade. Many other skeletons have been found in the vicinity; and "in the autumn of 1799, five skeletons were dug up about a quarter of a mile from the spot where Frome Whitfield Church stood, or, as some call it, Hollis' Farm, in a field called Pond Close. Some men were digging the ground to plant firs and shrubs, and the pick-axes struck against a stone repeatedly. The men, from curiosity, removed the earth to take up the stone, and underneath found a skeleton; and searching further, they discovered in all, five skeletons, laid in exact order, the heads to the west,

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 346, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

west, lower than the feet; owing, perhaps, to the situation of the ground, and inclosed in stone coffins in the following manner: a large stone set up edgeways at the head and feet; a stone placed in the same manner between each skeleton, and a broad one of the same kind laid flat on the top to cover them; but on a stone at the bottom, the soil, gravel, and larger earth mixed. They were about five feet ten inches long, perhaps one inch difference."*

WINTERBOURNE HERRINGSTONE, the seat of Edward Williams, Esq. is about two miles south of Dorchester. The manor was anciently possessed by the *Sywards*, a Saxon family of repute, and who had lands in this county prior to the Conquest. The heiress of the Sywards conveyed it in marriage to the Harang, or Herring family, from whom it came to the ancestors of the present owner early in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The Manor-House is a large quadrangular building, the south front of which is said traditionally to have been erected by the Sywards about the year 1300: the north front was repaired, or built, by Sir John Williams, whose monument has been described in the account of St. Peter's, Dorchester, and who was twice Sheriff of this county in the reign of Elizabeth, and one of its representatives in Parliament in the time of James the First. In a large Hall, on the south side of the quadrangle, are whole-length paintings of CHARLES THE SECOND, KING WILLIAM AND QUEEN MARY, and the gallant DUKE SCHOMBERG; by Sir Godfrey Kneller; besides many family portraits. In the Dining-Parlour, at the west end of the Hall, is also an excellent likeness, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of the late SIR EDWARD WILMOT, Bart. Physician to the King, whose extreme goodness of heart, and amenity of disposition, distinguished him through a life extended beyond the common term, even to the length of ninety-four years. Sir Edward was descended from the Wilmots of Derbyshire; but died here in the year 1786. From the Hall a handsome flight of stone steps lead to the Drawing Room, a spacious and well-proportioned apartment, with a coved ceiling, divided into compartments, and ornamented with a variety of figures in stucco-work. On the divisions

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 343.

Digitized by Google

sions of the large window, in the upper part, and the space beneath it, is represented the History of the Bible, carved in oak, and painted; apparently, from the dresses of some of the female figures, of the age of Queen Elizabeth. This estate contains about 700 acres, appropriated to meadow, arable, and pasture. Many elm, ash, and chesnut trees, that were planted in the gardens about the commencement of the last century, are still flourishing.

At NOTTINGTON, a hamlet in the parish of Broadway, is a mineral spring, possessing similar properties and qualities with that at Kedleston, in Derbyshire. Dr. Robert Graves, who practised at Weymouth in the years 1791 and 1792, published the result of some chemical experiments made on this water, in a small pamphlet, from which the following particulars are extracted. "The spring is situate about three or four yards from a rising ground to the south: on the opposite side of it, at a short distance, runs the river Way. Within the space of ten or twelve yards from the well, are different places on the west, which manifestly exhibit the presence of sulphureous matter; especially when the season is wet, and the water collects above the surface of the ground. On the inside of the well may be clearly distinguished a circular whitish border, which marks the height to which the water commonly rises; and along the channel by which the water is discharged, a copious yellowish-white deposition may be seen adhering to the blades of grass and stones over which it flows. Of these some are tinged with a blackish colour, resembling æthiops. The white-yellowish matter, when collected, and gently dried, being laid on a red-hot iron, burns with the blue flame, and smells of sulphur. Nottington water, when taken fresh from the well, appears, in general, as pure and transparent as pure fountain water; emits a strong sulphureous odour, resembling that of the scourings of a gun; and has a taste which may not be unfitly compared to that of an egg boiled hard. By exposure to the atmosphere in an open glass vessel, it gradually becomes of a light pearl colour, loses its fœtor, and deposits a whitish sediment. Though it commonly possesses great clearness and transparency, yet these qualities are sometimes considerably injured, and then it appears of a light opal, or milky hue."

WEYMOUTH,

Digitized by Google

WEYMOUTH, AND MELCOMBE REGIS.

WEYMOUTH, a celebrated and fashionable bathing-place, is situated on the British Channel, at "the bottom of a most beautiful bay, which forms nearly a semicircle, making a sweep of more than two miles, admirably protected from all winds by the surrounding hills." It receives its name from the mouth of the little river Way, near which it stands, and communicates with Melcombe Regis, to which it is united by a handsome bridge, erected in 1770. Weymouth was but an inconsiderable place till within these few years: it is indebted principally to the visits of their present Majesties for the importance which it has now attained; though the beauty of its situation, and its acknowledged conveniencies for sea-bathing, certainly intitle it to every consideration.

That the site of this town was known to the Romans is probable from several circumstances; and Mr. Baxter imagines it to have been the *Clavinio* which is mentioned in the anonymous Ravennas. In the Saxon ages, however, it was evidently in being, as it is expressly named in a Saxon charter still extant, by which Ethelred gave a certain portion of land, called by the inhabitants *Weymouth*, (or *Wick*,) near the Isle of Portland, to his faithful minister *Atsere*. In the Domesday Book there are several parcels surveyed under the common name of *Wai*, or *Waia*, and these without additional names to distinguish any of them: yet the salt ponds, mentioned in none but this, seem sufficient to determine it as the place meant. In the reign of Edward the Third, it had become of some importance, the inhabitants being ordered, together with those of Melcombe and Lyme, to send a certain quota of ships for the King's expedition to Gascony. In the twenty-first of Edward the Third, Weymouth (for Melcombe is not mentioned, though, perhaps, it is included) furnished that Prince with twenty ships, and 264 mariners, at the siege of Calais, according to the roll of his fleet preserved in a manuscript in the Cottonian Library. In the year 1471, Margaret of Anjou, with her son Prince Edward, landed here from France, in order to restore her husband to the throne. Thirty-six years afterwards, King Philip of Castile, with his Queen,

Digitized by Google

were driven on this coast, and having run into the port, were detained by Sir Thomas Trenchard, till an interview took place between the English and Spanish Monarchs, from which the former derived some advantages. In the year 1588, Weymouth contributed six ships to oppose the Armada, one of which was of 120 tons burthen.

During the Civil Wars, this town was alternately garrisoned for the King and the Parliament. On its evacuation by the Royalists in 1644, "here were said to be taken 100 pieces of ordnance, great and small, 2000 muskets, 1000 swords, 150 cases of pistols, 200 barrels of powder, and about sixty sail of ships of all sorts in the harbour." It soon afterwards sustained an eighteen days siege, in the endeavor to retake it by the same party. In the year 1645, a fort was built on Weymouth side, to keep in the Portlanders. Four years afterwards the Corporation, in a petition to the Parliament, set forth that they had "a fair and large Chapel at Weymouth, with two aisles and large galleries, able to contain all the people in both towns, the building whereof cost the town 1500l. and was destroyed in the Civil Wars; that the bridge is now in decay, and cost 1200l. and the harbour filled with rubbish." The object of this petition, which was to request an indemnification for the above losses, and a relief from part of the burthen they sustained in maintaining the garrison, (estimated at 30l. a month,) does not appear to have been obtained, as a letter was soon afterwards received concerning the "the refractoriness of the magistrates and ministers of Weymouth."

The Manors of Portland and Wike, with the ports of *Waimuth* and Melcombe, and the liberties attached to them, were *granted*, by Charter of Henry the First, to the Monks of St. Swithin, Winton; and Henry the Second confirmed the port of *Waimue*, and the whole land of Melcombe, to that establishment, with additional privileges. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, in the reign of Henry the Third, or Edward the First, had the liberties of Weymouth of the house of St. Swithin by exchange, and held them by service unknown, claiming at the same time, view of frank pledge, assize of bread and beer, and returns of writs. His descendant,

Digitized by Google

descendant, Lionel, Duke of Clarence, in the fortieth of Edward the Third, obtained additional liberties for the borough, particularly grants of a market and fair; and through his heirs it afterwards became vested in the Crown. Charles the Second alienated it, by disposing of the fee-farm rents of the manor to Sir John Clobery.

The Manor of Melcombe is so frequently joined in descents and grants with that of Weymouth, that there is some difficulty in separating them, though each had anciently distinct privileges. In the above Charters of Henry the First and Henry the Second, Melcombe is granted with Weymouth to the Monks of St. Swithin. In Edward the First's time it belonged to the Abbey of Cerne; but when or by whom given is unknown. Possibly being a member of *Radipole*, it, with that villa, had appertained to the Abbey, from whom Edward the Confessor might grant it, with Portland Wike and Weymouth, to the Church of Winton, and the Abbey might, in or after the reign of Henry the Second, recover it; for in the reign of Edward the First, the Abbot certified his claim to a market and fair, together with one penny from the men that inhabited the tything, *beyond the memory of man*. The Convent soon after relinquished it to the Crown, and it became part of the dowry of Queen Eleanor, on whose account great privileges were granted it, which exceeding those of Weymouth, probably occasioned the disputes that subsisted between them till they were incorporated.

The borough of Weymouth is supposed to be more ancient than that of Melcombe, though neither returned Burgesses till the reign of Edward the Second. They were probably both made boroughs in the preceding reign; Melcombe, on its coming, as before observed, to the Crown, about 1280, and Weymouth sometime earlier. Melcombe being the favoured borough, and part of the demesne lands of the Crown, a considerable time before Weymouth, is principally noticed in succeeding charters, to the exclusion of its neighbour. In the reign of Edward the Third this borough flourished greatly; but in the next reign it was much impoverished, being burnt by the French; on which the inhabitants

Digitized by Google

prayed for a discharge of their customs. Edward the Fourth, in 1463, having inspected the preceding charters, granted another, by which the inhabitants were invested with all manner of usages and customs granted unto the citizens of London, with power to make a Coroner, an Escheator, and other officers. In the reign of Elizabeth, the disputes between the rival boroughs of Melcombe and Weymouth, respecting their privileges, had arrived at so great a height, that the expediency of uniting them became apparent; and they were accordingly incorporated by an Act passed in the thirteenth of that Princess, (afterwards confirmed by James the First,) and directed hereafter to be called "The united Town and Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis;" the government being vested in a Mayor, Recorder, two Bailiffs, an indefinite number of Aldermen, and twenty-four Capital Burgesses; and they now possess as one borough, the peculiar privilege with the Metropolis, of sending four members to Parliament. The representatives are elected by freeholders of Weymouth or Melcombe, whether inhabitants or otherwise. The number of voters is about 200. These electors have also votes for the county members.

"The tounlet of Waymouth (says Leland) lyith strait agayn Milton (Melcombe) on the other side of the haven, and at this place the water of the haven is but a smaul brede; and the trajectus is by a bote or a rope bent over the haven; so that in the ferry bote they use no oars. Waighmouth hath certain liberties and priviledges, but ther is no mair yn it. Ther is a kay and wharfe for shippes. By this toune on a hille is a chapelle of ease. The Paroch chirche is a mil off. The se ebbith and floweth up aboute two miles beyond Waymouth. Ther is a litle barre of sand at the haven mouth. Ther runnith up by the right hond of the haven a great arme of the se: and scarce a mile, or half a mile, or more, above the haven mouth, on the shore of this arme, is a right goodly and warlyke castel made, having one open barbicane. This arme runnith up farther a mile as in a bay to a point *of land*, wher a trajectus is into Portland, by a long causey of pibble and sand. The est-south-est point of the haven of Waymouth *is caullid*

Digitized by Google

St. Aldhelme's Point, beying a litle foreland. Weimouth is counted 20 miles from Pole."

In addition to this description of the town of Weymouth in its ancient state, we subjoin an extract from Coker's Survey of this county, apparently written about half a century later, which not only enters more into particulars, but notices some alterations and additions which had then taken place.

"From Weeke (Wyke) the sea working somewhat farr into the land, yieldeth a convenient and safe harbor for shipping, in the mouth of a small river called Wey, from which the haven hath the name of Weymouth. This brooke, scarce three miles off, breaketh out at Wey, which it nameth, now from the situation called Upway. The river Wey passing thence, names little villages, and then falls into the sea at Weymouth, opposite to which, on the other banke, stands Melcombe, an antient borough, betweene whome and Weymouth arose a great controversy, both enjoying like privileges, and both challenging the particular immunities of the haven, which lyeth in the very bosom of them: each of them have taken the overthrowe of the other, but not resting by that, continually commenced new suits. At length having wearied the Lords of the Council, and other Courts, with their contentious importunities, by the advice of that wise Counsellor, William Cecil, Lord Treasurer of England, they were by an Act of Parliament, made in the reign of Elizabeth, incorporated into one bodye, governed by one Mayor, and Alderman, his assistants; immediately upon which, they conjoined themselves together by that faire bridge of tymber which we see; yet still they send either of them two Burgesses of the Parliament.

"Both these towns have certainly risen from the convenience of the harbor, and from small beginnings, for neither of them till of late time had a parish-church. Weymouth, without all question, is much the ancienter, which may appear both in that it had the precedency given in the name, when, by the aforesaid act of unitye, it was decreed, it should be called the town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis; as also that you shall find mention of it in some ancient records; and that it was heretofore of every sufficient abi-

Digitized by Google

lity, will appear in that they were able to assist their then King, Edward III. with 15 ships and 263 mariners, what time he prepared to besiege Callice, in France, which rate, I assure you, no haven in these parts came near unto: but they were not to be blamed to make what strength they could against the French, who both then, and many time sithence, have essayed to burn their towne, and destroy the inhabitants.

" Weymouth, as now it is, is but little, consisting chiefly of one street, which for a good space lyeth open to the sea; and on the back of it riseth an hill of such steepness, that they are forced to clymbe upp to their chapel by eighty steps of stone, from whence you have a faire prospect of the towne and haven laying under it. From one side you may see Wecke, the mother-church of Weymouth, and Melcombe on the other side, which much surpasseth the other for conveniency of scite; for this standing on a flat, affordeth roome for building, with a market-place, and convenient streets, and also yardes for ther wares; by means whereof most of the merchants have chosen this for their habitation, which of late years is fairely new built: ther anciently was placed the woolstaple; but King Henry VI. took it from them, and gave itt to Pool, when he granted to itt the priviledges of an haven. These townes, now united, gaine well by traffique into Newfoundland, where they have had eighty sayle of ships and barkes; as also a nearer cutt into France opposite to them, whence they return laden with wines, cloath, and divers other useful commodities, with which they furnish the country."

The Chapel, mentioned by Leland and the above writer, as remarkable for its elevated situation, was demolished in the Civil Wars, at which period considerable damage was done to the town. It was of some antiquity, as appears by a patent, May 5. 20. H. VI. 1442, when that King granted licence to Adam Moleyus, Dean of Sarum, and other parishioners of Wyke Regis, to found a fraternity or Guild in the Chapel of St. Nicholas, in the borough of Weymouth, by the name of the Mayor and Wardens of the Fraternity or Guild of St. George in Weymouth. Henry Russel, in the same reign, was reputed a founder, he having endowed it with seventeen

Digitized by Google

teen messuages, and fifty-four acres of land, and common for eight oxen. In the chantry roll, 33 H. VI. it was valued at 6l. 13s. 10d. In the reign of Edward the Sixth, John Lord Russel returned an account of the income of the lands with which it was endowed, amounting as above, all which was distributed by the chantry Priest. The site of the Chapel is still called *Chapel Hays*, and is used for a bowling-green, the bounds being marked out by four stones.

Weymouth since the time of Elizabeth, had, from a variety of reasons, been fast going to decay. The removal of the woolstaple to Poole, the loss of the Newfoundland trade, the havock made by the Civil Wars, damages by fire, neglect, want of public spirit, and other circumstances, had concurred to produce this effect; and till it began to acquire celebrity as a watering-place, it was little more than an inconsiderable fishing town. The late Ralph Allen, Esq. of Bath, about the year 1763, first contributed to bring Weymouth into repute: having received great benefit from bathing there, he proclaimed its salubrity to the extensive circle of his acquaintance, and his encomium being exceeded by the real beauties and advantages of the situation, it soon began to be the resort of the first company from all parts of the kingdom.

The reputation thus acquired, was extended by the late Duke of Gloucester, who having himself derived considerable advantage from the air and sea breezes, provided a residence for the temporary accommodation of the Royal Family; and their Majesties, accompanied by the three elder Princesses, in the year 1789, made their first visit to this place. After a very short residence, his Majesty experienced the beneficial effects of the situation and of sea-bathing, and became so attached to this spot, that he has honored it with his presence several times since that period. The advantages arising from these visits, have proved of the greatest consequence to the town, which, to use the words of a cotemporary author, is " rapidly growing more considerable every day, from the vast concourse of company by which it is now frequented for sea-bathing. For this purpose, the bay is far better adapted than any other watering-place upon our coasts; whilst the inhabitants, by

Digitized by Google

the influx of money, have been encouraged to rebuild, beautify, and greatly enlarge, the town, which, in little more than twenty years, has undergone a considerable transformation." On entering Weymouth, the first objects of curiosity to the stranger are the Esplanade and the Bay.

The Esplanade, which, but a short time ago, was nothing but a place where the inhabitants deposited all the rubbish of the town, is now converted into one of the most charming promenades in England, and adorned by a range of handsome edifices, among which Gloucester Row is peculiarly elegant. This grand public walk is half a mile in length, and in breadth about thirty feet: from hence you may go by a flight of stone steps, or by a gradual descent, to the sands, which are perfectly firm and smooth, and as level as a carpet. The concourse of fashionable company at this place during the height of the season is very great, and affords a picture highly interesting and amusing.

The Bay, where the company bathe, makes a beautiful semicircular sweep of nearly two miles, and is admirably protected from all winds by the surrounding hills, which exhibit a most picturesque view, and at the same time render the sea perfectly secure, hence at all times may the valetudinarian be certain of meeting with no interruption in enjoying the salutary exercise of bathing. The machines used for this purpose are upwards of thirty in number, which in the summer season are fully employed from six or seven o'clock in the morning to twelve at noon, or later.

"The sea-water of this bay (observes Dr. Crane, in his Observations on Sea Bathing) is quite pure, of a beautiful color, perfectly clear and transparent; the sands under foot are soft, yet firm, and entirely free from obstructions. The declivity is so gradual as to be almost imperceptible, a great security to the weak and fearful. The Bay is so well sheltered by Nature, that for tranquillity it surpasses what I have ever seen; scarcely any weather happening to interrupt bathing; whereas it not unfrequently happens at other places of resort for this purpose, that there are long interruptions to bathing from the turbulence of the sea, to the great disappointment, loss of time, and expence, of those to whom such delays may

be

Digitized by Google

be most distressing and injurious." The Doctor adds, "That Weymouth and its neighbourhood are entirely free from stagnate waters, wet or marshy swamps, to produce noxious vapours: the soil is of such a nature as to afford nothing from which any insalutary exhalations can proceed; and the air is proverbially mild, soft, and serene."

As soon as Weymouth became a place of fashionable resort, the expediency of public amusements was perceived; and Mr. Sproule, of Bath, offered proposals for erecting a set of Assembly Rooms, with an Hotel, and other necessary appendages. The propositions were acceded to; and about the year 1772, a building, 600 feet in length, and 250 in depth, was raised on a vacant spot adjoining the town, at the expence of 6000l. which was defrayed by subscriptions in shares of 100l. each. Many additional houses have since been erected; and so great have been the improvements since that period, that those only who have been inhabitants of the town, can form an adequate idea of the changes it has undergone. "The two ranges of houses, called Gloucester Row, and York's Buildings, are very considerable additions to its appearance. Every spot of land which fronts the sands has been snatched up with the greatest avidity, and appropriated to the purpose of building lodging-houses, which in the summer season are sure to answer every expectation of the proprietors. The Esplanade, which is kept in the most perfect repair, is a beautiful raised terrace, of considerable length and breadth, with a slope gradually descending to the sands; and near the centre of the bathing machines, and opposite the Royal residence, are flights of steps, of Portland stone. Here is likewise a handsome battery, mounting twenty-one small guns, which are generally fired on extraordinary occasions. The Royal Assembly Room is a lofty, light and spacious building, every way adapted to the purpose for which it was intended, and in which upwards of 100 couples may dance with ease and pleasure. The Theatre has within these few years been fitted up in a style of elegance that does equal credit to the manager and the architect. The boxes are capable of containing near 300 spectators; and the manner in which they are decorated, is

Digitized by Google

little inferior to the London Theatres. On the Quay is a most convenient hot salt-water bath, which has effected many cures. The Bridge has been rebuilt in the Chinese style."*

The views from Weymouth are exceedingly pleasant, most of the buildings being so situated as to command interesting prospects. The houses fronting the bay, however, possess superior attractions; not only from their delightful situation, but also from their immediate vicinity to the places of recreation, the Theatre, Public Rooms, and Libraries. The principal Library is fitted up in a very elegant style, nearly in the centre of the Esplanade; over it is a Card-Room, forty-five feet in length, twenty-three feet wide, and sixteen feet high.

Several small forts have at different periods been erected to defend the town and harbour from foreign enemies; and others were also raised during the Civil Wars: of these, *Jetty*, or *New Fort*, *North Fort*, and *Dock Fort*, are each mounted with three cannon. On a high cliff, about one mile from the town, are the ruins of SANDSFOOT CASTLE, a fortress erected by Henry the Eighth about the year 1539, when he expected the Papal See to excite an invasion of the country. Leland denominates it, "a right goodly and warlyke castle, having one open barbicane." Its form was a parallelogram; its greatest length running from north to south. The walls were mostly cased with squared Portland stone; the inner parts being filled up with rubble, and mortar. "At the north end was a tower, on which were the arms of England, supported by a Wyvern, and a Unicorn. The north part seems to have been the Governor's apartment, which is all vaulted: the south front is semicircular, and said to have been the Gun-Room; before it was a platform for cannon: on the east are the remains of a small gate, faced with stone. At the south end is a building, lower, but broader than the Castle, and serving to flank its east and west sides, which had each embrasures for great guns, and beneath them two tier of loop-holes for small arms; the lowest almost even with the level of the ground: a deep trench at a small distance

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. Additions, &c. 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

distance surrounds the whole, except on the south."* The walls were lofty, and very strong: in some parts the thickness was not less than seven yards.

The Church is a low structure, occupying the site of an ancient Chapel belonging to the Church at Radipole, of which parish this was originally a part; but in the reign of James the First was made a separate jurisdiction. Within it is a fine altar-piece, representing the Last Supper; for which Sir James Thornhill, who executed and presented it to the town, is reported to have refused 700l. East of the Church are some buildings that are connected with a Dominican Priory, founded here about the commencement of the fifteenth century. These are now parcelled out in tenements; and the Chapel belonging to the Priory is used as a malt-house. The Quakers and the Independants have each a meeting-house here. The number of houses, in both divisions of the town, as returned under the late act, was 795: of inhabitants, 3627.

Sir James Thornhill, the celebrated painter of the Cupola of St. Paul's, and of the Halls of Greenwich Hospital, and Blenheim, was born at Melcombe Regis in the year 1675. He practised originally as a House Painter, but afterwards applied to historical subjects, and with so much success, that he rivalled the best proficients of his time. In March, 1719-20, he was appointed Historical Painter to George the First, and a few months afterwards received the honor of knighthood. Though employed in several extensive works, the advantage he derived from them was not always commensurate either to his merits, or to the *extent* of his labors. The taste of the age was not favorable to genius; the price of remuneration being in proportion to the space covered by the artist, rather than to the value of the painting. Thus, for the dome of St. Paul's, Sir James was paid 40*s. per square yard;* and for the Hall of Blenheim, 25s. While painting the former, he approached so nearly to the edge of the scaffold, to observe the effect of his work, that he was saved only from being dashed to pieces by his servant, who saw his danger, and by rubbing out some

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 32.

Digitized by Google

some portion of the figures, caused him to start forward in anger; and was thus the means of preserving him from destruction. He died at his seat at Thornhill, near this town, in the year 1734, having one son and a daughter; the latter of whom was married to the matchless Hogarth in her father's life-time, though without his consent.

Nearly a quarter of a mile south-east of Pokeswell is a DRUIDICAL CIRCLE, "consisting of fifteen stones: one or two seem missing on the north-west, where, perhaps, was the entrance. Some of them are quite level with, and some but little above the surface of the ground: two of them, on the south-west, are about two feet high, and broad; some are scarcely one foot high. They are all extremely old, rough, and irregular, and full of holes, worn by the weather. They stand on a tump, round which are the remains of a small ditch. The Circle is four yards and a half in diameter. Eight or nine paces from it, are three or four erect stones, which seem the remains of another Circle; and about 200 yards distant, on the north-east and east, are four pretty large stones, which, perhaps, formed another larger Circle, or, possibly, an avenue to the former."*

On the coast, at a little distance from West Lullworth, is LULLWORTH COVE, a sort of natural bason, into which the sea flows through a wide gap in the cliff, sufficient for the entrance of vessels of seventy or eighty tons burthen. "The rocks around it rise to a great height, particularly those opposite the entrance, which are composed of a hard, calcareous grit. Those nearer to the main sea consist of a shelly lime-stone (similar to that of Peverel Point, and St. Adhelm's Head) and chert; and it is observable, that the *strata* of these substances on one side of the Cove correspond exactly to those on the other, both in direction and texture. It may be remarked too, that the whole range quite from Peverel Point makes the same angle, about forty-five degrees with the horizon, or nearly so, pitching, or dipping, in general, to the north. The rocks west of the Cove have been undermined in a singular manner by the sea; and there are large grotesque caverns,

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 243.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE ARCHED ROCK, LULWORTH.
Dorsetshire.

Digitized by Google

caverns, through which it pours with an awful roar. Immense masses seem just ready to drop into the deep, exhibiting marks of some wonderful convulsion: alterations in their aspect daily take place, and the depth and extent of the sea within the Cove have considerably increased even in the memory of several natives of the village. About these rocks, the razor-bill and puffin lay their eggs. They generally make their appearance towards the middle of May, and migrate before the end of August. The former deposits its eggs on the bare rocks; and even those belonging to different birds are placed contiguous to each other. These eggs are food for the country people, who often run most terrific risks, by trusting themselves at the end of a rope to the strength of only one person above, if whose footing should be insecure, they must both tumble down the precipice together."* About a mile from the Cove is the *Arched Rock*, which projects from the land into the sea, having an opening fifteen or twenty feet high in the middle, formed like an arch, through which the prospect of the sea has a peculiar effect.

LULLWORTH CASTLE, the seat of Thomas Weld, Esq. is a noble pile, situated on an eminence in the south-east corner of an extensive park, which occupies a circuit of nearly four miles and a half, and has been lately surrounded by an excellent stone wall, upwards of eight feet high. It commands a fine view of the sea from an opening between the hills, as well as extensive prospects of the adjoining country. The present edifice is not of any great antiquity; but it is supposed to be built on or near the site of a Castle mentioned as far back as the year 1146: the materials used in erecting it were brought principally from the ruins of Bindon Abbey. The foundations were laid in the year 1588, and the structure, except its internal decorations, finished in 1609: the latter were not completed till after the year 1641, when the ancestor of the present owner purchased the estate. "Lullworth Castle is an exact cube of eighty feet, with a round tower at each corner, thirty feet in diameter, and rising sixteen feet above the walls, which, as well as the towers, are embattled. The walls are

* Maton's Observations on the Western Counties, Vol. I. p. 46.

Digitized by Google

are six feet thick; the offices are under-ground, arched with stone. The house has three stories, but the towers four: in each front are three rows of four windows; in the towers are four rows, of three each, exclusive of the offices. The Hall and Dining-Room are large; and the rooms are in general eighteen feet high. In the apartments are some family portraits, executed by the celebrated Sir Peter Lely. The principal front is on the east, and faced with Chilmark stone; before it was a large court, now laid into the lawn leading to the landing-place, which is guarded by a balustrade of stone, (which in the late Edward Weld's time only extended along the east front,) called the Cloisters, became paved with the stones taken from the cloisters of Bindon Abbey. This has been continued by the present possessor along the north and south sides, at the extremity of which it joins a terrace to the west, of the same height as itself. Over the doors are statues of two ancient Romans in their gowns. On each side of the door, which is supported by four pillars of the Ionic order, is a large niche, and over them two shields, on which are the arms of Weld properly blazoned. In the niches are the statues of Music and Painting."* In the year 1789, during their Majesties' residence at Weymouth, Mr. Weld had the honor to receive several Royal visits, the particulars of which are commemorated in two inscriptions over the entrance to the Castle.

The Manor of East Lullworth, in which this edifice is situated, appears to have given its name to its ancient possessors, the *De Lolleworths*. In the twenty-eighth of Edward the First, William De Est Lullworth, granted to John De Novo Burgo, (Newburgh,) and Elizabeth, his wife, and their heirs, all his right in this Manor, for which they paid 100 marks sterling; and by another agreement 200l. It was held by the Newburghs till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when Christian, the sole heiress of that ancient house, conveyed it by marriage to her husband, Sir John de Marney. After his death, it came by marriage to the Howard family, one of whom, James, Earl of Suffolk, in 1641, sold it to Humphrey

* Hutchins's History of Dorset, Vol. II, p. 227.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Humphrey Weld, Esq. from whom it descended in a direct line to the present proprietor.

Mr. Weld has lately erected an elegant little Chapel at a short distance from the Castle, for the convenience of his family and dependants. This structure is of a circular form, increased by four sections of a circle, so as to form a cross, and finished with a dome and lantern. It contains a well-toned organ, a copy of Raphael's Transfiguration, and two other scriptural pieces lately brought from Italy. The altar-piece is decorated with very costly ornaments, disposed with much taste and effect: it is chiefly composed of the richest and most curious marbles. The front and outside pannels of the two supporters of the altar-table are of beautiful oriental rose alabaster, having mouldings of *giallo de Sienna:* within the former are two angels of bronze, in postures of adoration; between them is a vase, composed of one piece of amber-colored transparent alabaster: the platform on which the latter is placed, is of porphyry, with a base of a brilliant *brescia corallina:* the back part and two sides of the space wherein the vase and angels stand, are of a *brescia antiqua*, so variegated as to throw a kind of splendor about the urn; the pannels of the altar-steps are of *plasma di smeraldo*, set in *giallo antico;* the small step that projects immediately on the altar-table, is of choice *pecorella minuta* alabaster; the door of the tabernacle, and its frame, are composed of *lapis lazuli, amethyst, verde di Corsica, Cianco e nero antico, verde d' Egipto*, and other choice stones. The pedestal of the crucifix is composed of *plasma di smeraldo* and *verde antico;* the entire sides of the cross are incrusted with *lapis lazuli;* the Saviour is carved in ivory, and the Magdalen is of gilt bronze.

In a magnificent folio Psalter, made by order of Geoffery, Lord Louterell, last Baron of that family, who died in the twenty-fifth of Edward the First, now in the possession of Mr. Weld, is a most beautiful and curious illumination, an accurate engraving of which is given by Mr. Carter in his "Specimens of Ancient Sculptures and Paintings." It represents a Knight arming for a tournament, or some martial exercise, the particulars of whose dress are highly curious, and most minutely delineated: two ladies, apparently his

Digitized by Google

his wives, assist him. "As he sits on his steed, a lady, habited in curled hair, with a fillet, a veil thrown back, and a wimple, her surcoat charged with his arms, lifts up to him, with her right hand, a close pointed helmet; and in her left hand she holds a pennon of his arms round the point of a spear. Behind her is another lady, in the same dress, holding in her right hand a pendant shield of his arms, which are likewise on her surcoat; and on her left arm is hanging, as it may be presumed, the embroidered collar, an usual prize or favour given by some lady to her favourite Knight, as a charge to him to meditate some feat of chivalry, which collar was generally fastened above the knee, by some of the lady's female attendants. The ladies' dresses are alike, the hair combed back on the head, and curled at the ears; a fillet of gold beads encircles the head; a red band edges the veil, as a stiff kind of ornament does the ears. Their boddice, or under dress, is red, with the surcoat of their arms over it."

The Parish Church of St. Andrew, near the Castle, (which was an ancient and rather curious fabric,) has been within these few years rebuilt, at the expence of Mr. Weld, who previously removed the bodies of his ancestors, which were in the family vault beneath the Church, to the new catacombs he has made under his Chapel. It at present contains a few funeral memorials, chiefly of the above family, one of which, to the memory of Sir John Weld, who died in 1674, gives a very distinct genealogy of the house of Weld, who are said to be lineally descended from "Edrike, surnamed Sylvaticus, or Wild, whose father was Alfrike, brother to Edrike Stratton, Duke of Mercia, who married Edina, daughter of Etheldred, King of England."

In the parish of Lullworth, about a mile from the Castle, at the top of a very high hill, is a fortification, consisting of three ramparts and ditches, including an area of about five acres. It has two entrances; one on the south-east, and the other on the south-west. On the latter side, which is next the sea, the ramparts are slight, and the cliff almost perpendicular: its shape is an oblong square. The country people call it FLOWER'S BARROW; a term which Mr. Hutchins conjectures to be a corruption of

Florus'

Digitized by Google

Florus' Barrow, "probably from some Roman officer of that name, under whose direction it was formed." Mr. Aubrey calls it a *British Camp*. Near this spot the Rev. Mr. Milner, of Winchester, assisted by Mr. Weld, and other gentlemen, opened several barrows in the year 1791: the particulars of the discoveries made were communicated to the Gentleman's Magazine, from which publication, as the subject is curious, we shall insert a few extracts.

"We began with two barrows, of no great dimensions, opposite to East Lullworth, on a level piece of ground, that is met with in the ascent up a steep and lofty mountain, the top of which is crowned with a double entrenchment. In these two barrows we found promiscuously scattered, perfect human teeth, burnt human bones, together with those of animals, such as pieces of the jaw-bones of horses or oxen, teeth of the same animals, tusks of boars; small round stones, of the Portland kind, not bigger than childrens' marbles; pointed stones, that possibly have been the heads of weapons; certain lumps of corroded metal, seemingly iron, but of an undetermined shape; a few particles of yellow metal, which, being lost, could not undergo the assay; some crumbling pieces of dark-coloured, unburnt urns; together with a few lumps of brick, or earthenware, that appeared to have been well burnt. A considerable quantity of fine rich black earth, having white mouldiness between the particles, was strewed over the remains. The bottom of one of these graves was paved with large round stones, apparently procured from the adjacent shore."

The confused state in which the contents of the barrows was found, induced Mr. Milner and his friends to imagine, that they had been previously opened, possibly from being placed near a populous neighbourhood; another barrow, in a more remote and less accessible situation, was therefore selected for further research. This was known by the name of *Hambury taut*, or *toote;* and, like the former, was of a large size, being twelve feet in perpendicular height, and 200 in circumference.

"Many of the same articles were found on the surface; and at the extremities of this, as in the former barrows, such as burnt human

Digitized by Google

human bones, bits of metal, &c. but on our approaching to the centre, at about the depth of four feet from the surface, a skeleton appeared in perfect preservation, lying with its head to the north; but so tender as to crumble into dust with the least pressure: its posture, which was that of a person sleeping on his side, with the feet rather drawn up, one hand resting on its breast, the other on its hip, prevented it from being accurately measured. The account of the people, however, employed in digging, we found afterwards, had magnified it to the size of seven, and even of eight feet. But what may be said with certainty is, that the thigh-bone measured twenty inches, which, in a well proportioned man, I find, gives a height of about six feet and as many inches. One of the leg-bones appeared to have been fractured; but whether this had happened by some wound in war, or by some accident at the funeral, or by the weight of the superincumbent earth, it is impossible to determine. On the breast of the skeleton was deposited a rude urn, too much decayed to be handled without falling to pieces, of about the measure of two quarts, but empty of every thing, except the same fine mould that covered the skeleton. Near the neck of the latter were found many of the round stones I have before mentioned, but of different sizes, from that of a pigeon's egg down to a pea. As they were imperforated, it is not improbable that they had once been covered with metal, in which state they might have formed a necklace, or any similar ornament. The substance of the barrow, as high as the site of the body, was formed of flints and stones; into which a shaft was sunk to a considerable depth, but without finding any thing worth notice." A third barrow, that was opened soon after, *contained* no less than *five* distinct skeletons. "Three of them were in a row, lying on their backs: two of these appeared to be of the common size; but that in the middle was a small one, probably of some young person. The two others were at the distance of a few feet from those of the ordinary size, with the head of one lying on the breast of the other. Each of the skeletons had an urn upon it; but these were so perished, that, upon being touched, they fell into earth, except a few pieces near the top rim of

Digitized by Google

of one of them. Under the head of one of the three that lay in a row, was found a small earthen urn, about the size of the cup of an ordinary wine glass. This urn was of the same shape with the rest which were found, namely, that of a truncated cone, and was about two inches high, and one in diameter; it was nicely covered with the shell of a limpet, but quite empty: the broken pieces of urn were ornamented, by being rudely indented in a zig-zag fashion. The five skeletons were not all exactly on the same level in the barrow, which appeared to be a family sepulchre; but the two last mentioned seem to have been deposited in the side of the barrow without taking it to pieces."

Five or six other barrows, in the same neighbourhood, were afterwards opened; but the contents of all were nearly the same. One of them, about 150 feet in circumference, and ten in perpendicular height, inclosed a "rude vault, or *kistvaen*, formed with unhewn stones, surrounding an urn capable of holding about two gallons, and full of burnt human bones, being covered at the top with a thin flat stone, and having a quantity of the roots of quilch grass undecayed near it; which also frequently occurred in the other barrows. The urn in question was composed of a coarse black clay, of the shape above described, and did not seem either to have been turned with a lathe, or burnt in a kiln, but merely hardened by fire, or the heat of the sun. Of the same substance and form were all the other urns discovered in this neighbourhood: there was this difference, however, in their position, that some of them stood upright, and others were found inverted."

From the observations Mr. Milner was enabled to make during the progress of these discoveries, he draws certain conclusions in favor of the barrows inspected being of British, rather than of Roman, Saxon, or Danish, origin. His arguments are these: That the Romans, though in the practice of both burying and burning their dead, affected rather to bury near cities, and in public highways, than on lofty mountains and sequestered downs, which is the situation of the monuments described; and that this circumstance, added to the rudeness of the urns, and the total absence of sepulchral lamps, lachrymatories, coins, or other

Digitized by Google

tokens of Roman sepulture, evidently point out Barbarians, and not Romans, as the constructors of the works before us. Admitting this, the next object of enquiry is, to which of the three following nations must they be attributed; the Britons, the Saxons, or the Danes. Neither of these people were allowed, by the Canons of the Church, to burn their dead after the introduction of Christianity: these barrows must have been made, therefore, previous to their conversion. The Danes, upon this principle, have the weakest claim, as they appear never to have been sufficiently stationary to construct family sepulchres (as some of these evidently are) till after their Princes, and the nation in general, professed themselves Christians. Which is more reasonable, therefore, to attribute these ancient monuments to the Britons previous to their adoption of Roman customs, or to the Pagan Saxons? Mr. Milner observes, "there are more and stronger arguments for ascribing them to the former, than the latter people; for though the ancestors of both the Britons and Saxons were in the practice of at least occasionally using funeral piles, barrows, and urns, yet there is this striking difference between the two people; that the former, according to Cæsar, were fond of the pomp of funerals, sacrificing men as well as animals on the occasion, and depositing with the dead whatever they had most precious: whereas the latter, according to Tacitus, despised the fruitless ambition, as they considered it, of magnificent funerals; and it was only on some extraordinary occasion that the warrior's horse was buried with his master. It has been said, likewise, though not upon sufficient authority, that the Saxons had laid aside the custom of burning the dead previous to their invasion of this Island. I think the evident consequences to be deduced from what has been alledged above, together with the great antiquity of these barrows, manifest, by the condition of the metal, bones, and urns, found in them, and the coarseness and rudeness of the urns, (more likely to be the manufacture of the savage Britons, than the comparatively polished Saxons,) and, above all, the conformity between these barrows and those opened by Dr. Stukeley, and others, in the neighbourhood of Stonehenge, taking the latter for granted to be

Digitized by Google

be a Druid temple; all these circumstances considered together, induce me to attribute the barrows I have described, to the aborigines of this Island, the Britons, rather than the Saxons, or any later people."

The difficulty which may be started, that some of the above barrows contained only urns full of burnt bones, whilst others contained entire skeletons, with urns placed upon them, Mr. Milner observes, is obviated by the learned and ingenious author of the History of Manchester, who proves that the ancient Britons were in the habit of using both rites of funeral; that of burning and burying entire. As these barrows contained vestiges of both, he supposes a number of slaves, captives, and animals, might have been sacrificed at the funerals of the Britons, whose remains were deposited beneath these tumuli.

About four miles from Lullworth Castle, in a pleasant and retired valley, on the banks of the river Frome, is the site and remains of

BINDON ABBEY. This edifice was founded in the year 1172, by Roger, or Robert *De Newburgh*, and Matilda, his wife, for Monks of the Cistercian order. A Monastery appears to have been begun prior to this date, by William de Glastonia, in another situation; but very few particulars respecting it are extant. Whether William de Newburgh, therefore, adopted the intentions of the first founder, and perfected his plan, or whether he began an entire new foundation, is not certain; it appears only, that William de Glastonia built, or began to build, an Abbey at Little Bindon, which William de Newburgh afterwards removed to its present site, and endowing it with lands, became himself the first patron. Henry the Third, by charter, confirmed to the Church of St. Mary at Bindon, and the Monks there, in perpetual alms, the site of the Abbey, the gift of Roger de Newburgh, and Matilda, his wife; also the place at Binedon, where the Abbey was first began to be built, (now called Little Bindon,) the gift of William de Glastonia, and Matilda, his wife; together with the Manor of Bexinstone, and various other possessions. By a second charter, the same Monarch grants to the Abbots and Monks, the

Digitized by Google

wood of Stotwood, without the Abbey of Bindon, and all the land where it grew, besides several houses, places, *(placeis,)* streets, pleasure and kitchen gardens, *(gardinis et curtilagiis,)* and arable land, which they held within or without the walls of Dorchester.

In the year 1271, Henry de Newburgh, formerly patron, by his charter, gave licence to the Abbot and Monks to chuse whom they pleased to be their patron, on which they elected himself, and Queen Eleanor, and their heirs. This election was accepted, and confirmed by Edward the First, who likewise confirmed a deed of Henry, son and heir of Robert de Newburgh, in which he declares all their possessions of his fee and demesne to be in pure alms, without retaining any right or claim to him or his heirs; and obliges himself and them to the forfeiture of ten pounds, to be paid to the Queen, if they controverted this grant, or any liberties granted by him or his ancestors: but they should enjoy their lands freely for ever.

This Abbey continued to receive bequests from several royal and noble personages, besides charters of privileges by succeeding Princes; though it does not appear to have ever ranked in power or opulence with many others in the county; yet, in the reign of Edward the First, the Abbot was once summoned to Parliament. It was dissolved among the lesser monasteries in 1536, its yearly value being estimated within 200l. (the sum specified in the Act;) though both Speed and Burnet assign it a larger revenue. The King two years afterwards restored it, with some few others, and re-instated the Abbot and Monks in their possessions, making them hold it of himself in perpetual alms; a very precarious tenure, as it soon proved; for in 1541 it was finally suppressed, and the site and manor granted to Thomas Lord Poynings. From the heirs of this Nobleman it descended to James Earl of Suffolk, who, in 1641, sold it, with the park, fishery, rectory, &c. to Humphrey Weld, Esq. ancestor to the present possessor, Thomas Weld, Esq. of Lullworth Castle, who has made a number of judicious alterations in and about the premises.

Bindon Abbey was in part demolished almost immediately after the Dissolution. *The Abbey Church* was a spacious and magnificent

Digitized by Google

cent structure, of which only a solitary fragment at present remains, though many considerable parts of it were standing within memory. One of these is represented in Buck's view, drawn about 1733; it consists of five semicircular arches, supported by six massy round pillars, sunk deep in the earth, above which are four narrow pointed windows. In the year 1703, a range of pillars and arches, nearly of the same extent, that stood on the opposite side, were blown down during a great storm. The north wall of the nave, seventy feet long, and forty-two feet high, with a portion of the wall of the adjoining aisle, twenty-one feet high, and above a yard thick, were standing as late as the year 1770: but the only part that now remains, is the north-west angle of the tower. Mr. Weld, the present proprietor, has been at the expence of clearing away the rubbish, in order to ascertain the disposition of the whole Abbey, which has been accurately traced, and a plan of it engraved. The fish-ponds have been cleaned out, and stocked with fish; the walks planted with rows of trees, in the manner they are supposed to have been anciently; and, for the convenience of parties who may make occasional trips to this pleasant and retired spot, an edifice has been erected in a style of building correspondent to the ruins. The whole site of the monastery, gardens, and precincts, containing ten acres, has been surrounded with a pallisade. Though so little is now remaining above ground of any part of the old walls of the Abbey, the founnations, level with the surface, are perfect, and kept clean, in order to shew the different apartments, which by that means can be immediately pointed out. Some estimation of the size and consequence of the numerous buildings belonging to the Abbey may be formed from the dimensions of the Church. The body, including the choir, was 170 feet long, beyond which the eastern part appears to have extended twenty-four paces, in all probability for the Lady's Chapel. The north and south aisles were equal; 115 long, by fourteen feet broad. The breadth of the Church, including the aisles, was fifty-eight feet. The tower was fifty-eight, by thirty-eight feet square. The intercolumniations, ten feet; and the circumference of the pillars, ten feet.

Digitized by Google

In digging immediately below the footstep of the side altar, a figure of an Abbot was discovered, of the natural size, surrounded by the following inscription, in old English characters:

Abbas Richardus de Wanneys hic tumulatur:
Ad pœnas tardus Deus hunc salvam tubatur.

"The greatest curiosity, however, discovered here, was the sepulchral statue of a child, being about two feet in length, habited in the dress and ornaments of an Abbot. It was found near where stood the stair-case. In order to account for this singularity, we must have resort to the ancient custom, by which one of the children of the choir, on the festival, and during the whole octave of Holy Innocents, was, in cathedral churches, permitted to wear the insignia of a Bishop; and in abbatial churches, those of an Abbot. Hence, if the juvenile Bishop, or Abbot, as we may suppose was the case at Bindon, happened to die in the course of this festivity, there is no doubt but what he would be represented in the ornaments which he was entitled to wear during that period. There is just such a figure in Salisbury Cathedral, engraved in the Introduction to the second volume of the Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain, plate IV. fig. I."*

In the vicinity of the Abbey is a building appropriated to the accommodation of some emigrant Monks of the order of La Trappe, to whom Mr. Weld has given an asylum, under the sanction of Government. This order, whose severe and strict rule of life appears to have been founded on the discipline of the Cistercians, had its origin in France; and is one of the most austere and self-denying of all the institutions of a similar nature. "One strong instance of their unsocial and unnatural discipline," observes Dr. Maton, "is the profound silence which is enjoined them, and which is never broken, unless on very extraordinary occasions, and with the leave of the superior of the convent. They shun the sight of women; and in their diet are so abstemious, that they live solely on vegetables, never tasting flesh, fish, or wine.

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. 2d. Edit.

Digitized by Google

wine. Their employment, in the intervals of their religious rites, is generally the cultivation of a garden, or any other manual labor.

"The founder of this order is said to have been a French Nobleman, whose name was *Bouthillier de Rance*, a man of pleasure and dissipation, which were suddenly converted into devotion and melancholy by the following circumstance. His affairs had obliged him to absent himself for some time from a lady with whom he had lived in the most intimate and tender connections. On his return to Paris, he contrived a plan, in order to surprise her agreeably; and to satisfy his impatient desire of seeing her, by going without ceremony, or previous notice, to her apartment. She lay stretched out an inanimate corpse, disfigured beyond conception by the small-pox; and the surgeon was about to separate the head from the body, because the coffin had been made too short! He was a few moments motionless with horror, and then retired abruptly from the world to a convent, in which he passed the remainder of his days in the greatest mortification and devotion."*

WAREHAM

Is situated on a peninsula, formed by the rivers Frome and Piddle, near their confluence with the waters of Poole Harbour. It appears to have been a British town; not so much from the various derivations that have been given of its name, as from its earthen vallum, and the barrows in its neighbourhood. The true etymology of Wareham is more probably from *Vara-ham*, a habitation on a *fishing-shore*, (which the Latin *Vara* absolutely implies,) than from *Durnguis*, *Verham*, *Thornsæta*, *Murionium*, or any other derivative whatever. That the Romans had a station here, is evinced by a military way which proceeds immediately to Dorchester, and by Roman coins found in the vicinity. Mr. Baxter, and other antiquaries, imagine it to have been the *Morinio* of Ravennas, and Richard of Cirencester.

* Observations on the Western Counties, Vol. I. p. 43.

Digitized by Google

Wareham was a place of some consequence in the times of the Saxons; as we learn from Dugdale and Leland, that Beorthric, Brichtric, or Brithric, the last King of the West Saxons, was buried here, in the year 800 or 802: though Dugdale, in another place,* informs us, that he was buried by Hugh, Duke of Mercia, in the Priory of Tewkesbury: probably he caused the body to be removed after sepulture. By the Danes it was made a theatre of war for upwards of a century and a half; and its notoriety at this period arose from its misfortunes and its desolation. In the year 875, the Danish chieftains, who lay at Repton, in Derbyshire, detached part of their forces to Cambridge, where they remained till the next year, when they quitted that city by night, and by forced marches arrived at Wareham, and destroyed a castle and a nunnery. The strength of the place induced them to make it their head quarters; but the brave Alfred marching quickly to its relief, the Danes were unable to resist the English Monarch, and were obliged to make a treaty, by which they bound themselves to depart the realm; yet, in violation of the agreement, part of them stole the King's horses, and marched to Exeter; whilst some of their companions continued at Wareham. Of this band, another division followed their companions to Exeter the following year; whilst the remainder, having embarked in 120 ships, were cast away near Swanwich.† Those who escaped drowning, made their way also to Exeter; where Alfred soon came up with, and subdued them.

In the reign of Athelstan, however, Wareham had recovered so much consequence, that the King appointed it to have two mints, and mint-masters; which was a greater proportion than any town in the county possessed, except Shaftesbury. Here also Edward the Martyr was privately buried after his assassination at Corfe Castle; though within three years his body was removed to the Abbey at Shaftesbury.

In 998 this place was again visited by the Danes; and likewise in the year 1015, when Canute entered the mouth of the Frome, ravaged

* Mon. Ang. I. 14. Leland Collect. III. 235. † Mon. Ang. I. 154.

Digitized by Google

ravaged Dorset, plundered the Monastery of Cerne, and having retired to Fromutha, sailed thence to Brownsea. It seems to have been the constant practice of these pillagers, that when the invasion of the western counties was their purpose, their rendezvous was at the Isle of Wight, whence they crossed to Frome mouth, and proceeded to this devoted town; and if they found themselves worsted in their depredations, it was in their way to their ships; so that Wareham was in a state either of continual apprehension, or of absolute warfare.

In the Domesday Book, Wareham is described as being in a state of desolation in the time of Edward the Confessor; at that period there were 143 houses in the King's demesne, of which seventy-three were afterwards destroyed; in the part of St. Wandregesil, forty-five were standing, and seventeen waste; in the part of the Barons, were twenty standing, and sixty destroyed. It was then rated for ten hides, and had two mint-masters. After the Conquest, it became of more importance; but from the year 1138 to 1146, was a theatre of confusion and war, arising from the contentions between King Stephen and the Empress Maud; during which the town and Castle were burnt. In 1205 it was visited by King John, who, eleven years afterwards, placed a garrison in the town. From this period scarcely any thing important occurred in Wareham, till the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles the First, when it was very early fortified for the Parliament; but in a short time it fell into the hands of the King. It was afterwards again seized for the Parliament, who relinquished it on the surrender of Corfe Castle.

On the twenty-fifth of July, 1762, Wareham experienced a terrible calamity, in a dreadful fire, which broke out in South-Street, almost in the centre of the town, where the four principal streets meet, at a house then known by the sign of the Bull's Head. The fire was occasioned by throwing turf-ashes on a dunghill; the season having, for several weeks, been remarkably hot and dry, and a brisk wind at south-west shifting afterwards to the north-east, which dispersed the flames in every quarter to the windward. The wind again varying to the south-east and south, and a calm coming

Digitized by Google

coming on, preserved the north and west ends of the town, though composed of thatched houses. The thatch, however, of the other quarters, communicating the flames, the fire spread with such violence and rapidity, that in three hours, two thirds of the town were reduced to a heap of ruins. One hundred and thirty-three dwelling houses, with the Town Hall, and other buildings, were destroyed; and the loss, exclusive of insurances, was estimated at 10,000l. The subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers did honor to the benevolence of the nation, and the town rose out of its ashes to greater advantage than before.

The Manor of Wareham, both before and after the Conquest, belonged to the Crown. It was granted first to the family of Bellomont, Earls of Leicester; and afterwards to the Clares, Earls of Gloucester and Hertford. In the first of Edward the First, Gilbert de Clare obtained a grant of a market, a fair, and various other privileges. At the time of his death, in the twenty-fourth of Edward the First, he held this village of the King in chief, as of the honor of Leicester, and claimed view of frank pledge, assize of bread and beer, return of writs, and other liberties. From him it passed to the *Mortimers*, and ultimately reverted to the Crown in the person of Edward the Fourth, in right of his mother, the Duchess of York. Henry the Eighth made it part of the jointure of the Queens Jane Seymour, Catharine Howard, and Catharine Parr. On the death of the latter it reverted to the Crown; and *in 1609*, was granted, by James the First, to Thomas Emerson, Esq. and Richard Cowdal. It came afterwards to the *Plunkets*, and to Thomas Erle, Esq. The latter, in October 1717, granted the whole to Sir Edward Erneley, and the Magistrates of Wareham; the clear issues to be laid out in apprenticing poor children born in the borough, to be nominated by Mr. Erle and his successors. In 1734, Gabriel Redwood, the surviving trustee, conveyed them to Henry Drax, Esq. of Charborough. John Calcraft, Esq. in 1767, purchased the manor of Thomas Erle Drax, Esq. as well as almost all the other freeholds of the borough. By the custom of this manor, both males and females had a right to partition in lands.

Wareham

Digitized by Google

Wareham is built on a rising ground, and forms almost a long square. The buildings are mostly constructed of brick: the streets are spacious and open, intersecting each other nearly at right angles. The area on which it stands, is computed at 100 acres, and is inclosed, except on the south side, by a high rampart, or wall of earth. The space between this wall and the town was anciently occupied by houses, the foundations of which still remain. At present it consists chiefly of extensive garden grounds, divided into regular quadrangles, the sites of ancient streets; the holders of these grounds, in their various proportions, are intitled to vote for Members of Parliament for the borough. These gardens produce vast supplies of vegetables, considerable quantities of which are sent to Poole and Portsmouth by water. The soil is supposed to be favorable for the cultivation of hops, which grow wild and luxuriant in the hedges and fields.

This town was anciently a borough by prescription, and is so styled in the Domesday Book. In the reign of Henry the Second, it was fined five marks for erecting a Guild without a licence. King John granted the fee-farm rents of the borough to the Burgesses, on a fine of 100 marks, and the payment 20l. per annum. Queen Elizabeth granted a charter, by which it appears that the town was governed by a Mayor, six Burgesses, and other corporate Officers; but, from some peculiar circumstance, these privileges are now neglected, and almost obsolete. The Mayor, by prescriptive right, is Coroner of the town, the Isles of Purbeck and Brownsea. This right is still claimed, and exercised. But the last charter is dated in 1703, in the second year of Queen Anne. By this charter the town is incorporated by the style of the Mayor, the capital and assistant Burgesses; and, among other privileges, is empowered to have a Gaol and House of Correction; to have two fairs, and a Court of Pie-powder; the profits of the fairs and courts to be for the sole benefit of the Mayor. The ancient records of the town are lost.

In the second of Henry the Fifth, the town gave the power of electing the Members to four Burgesses; but in 1747 it was determined, that the right of election was in the Mayor and Corporation,

Digitized by Google

ration, jointly with such inhabitants as paid scot and lot; and in the freeholders who actually held lands in their own occupation, or by descent, devise, marriage-settlement, or promotion in the Church. The number of voters is 150: the first return was made in the thirteenth of Edward the First.

Wareham had formerly eight Churches, three only of which remain. That dedicated to the *Holy Trinity* is reputed the Mother-Church, but does not contain any thing remarkable. *St. Martin's* is an ancient structure, neatly fitted up. The principal Church in the town is *St. Mary's*, a lofty fabric, and, with the exception of Sherborne, and Wimborne, the most spacious and ancient in the county. Neither its external nor internal ornaments, however, claim a particular description, except the Chapel in the south aisle, which, from its antiquity, is supposed to have been the burial-place of the Saxon Kings. Within it is a neat mural pyramidical monument, erected to the memory of the Rev. Mr. John Hutchins, M. A. many years Rector of Wareham and Swyre, and author of the History and Antiquities of Dorset. The building that was formerly St. Peter's Church, is now used as a Town-Hall, School-House, and Gaol. This parish is singular for a house in the Market-Place, called *Homo cum cane*, the owner of which is always tything-man, and obliged to attend at the Wool-Court twice a year, with a *one-eyed bitch*. In Wareham are two Meeting-Houses for Dissenters, in which several eminent characters have officiated as ministers.

The Priory, situated near St. Mary's Church, and the river, was one of the most ancient in the county; and is said to have been founded by Adhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, who died in 709; and appears to have been a Nunnery antecedent to 876, when, together with the town, it was destroyed by the Danes. Robert Bellomont, Earl of Leicester, changed it into a Convent for Monks, subject to the Benedictine Abbey of Lira, in Normandy. At the dissolution of Alien Houses, it was bestowed on the Carthusian Monastery of Shene, in Surrey; and, on the general dissolution of Monasteries, it shared the common wreck of those monuments of religious splendor. By various descents, it is now the property of Lord Rivers.

In

Digitized by Google

In a close, denominated Castle Close, formerly stood the Castle, of which no remains are now visible. It was famous for the close imprisonment, and horrid death, of Robert de Belesme, Earl of Montgomery. This Nobleman, described as the greatest, richest, and wickedest man of that age, was brought from Reresburg, in Normandy, for rebelling, in the year 1114, against Henry the First, when being doomed to the most rigid confinement in this Castle, he starved himself to death.

The Free-School at Wareham was founded by George Pitt, Esq. of Stratfield Say. In 1747, on a litigation in Chancery, it was determined that the School should be established at a salary of 25l. per annum, and the appointment to belong to George Pitt, Esq. and his successors. Henry Harbin, Merchant, of London, also, by will, 1703, gave 200l. to the Corporation, to purchase land to the value of 10l. per annum, for a person to instruct the poor children of Wareham in the English tongue; and should not the principal be adequate, the interest of 50l. more was to be added. The Alms-House nearly opposite St. Peter's Church is a very ancient foundation, by John Streche, Esq. of Exeter. It was rebuilt, in 1741, by Henry Drax, Esq. and John Pitt, Esq. at the expence of 100l. each, for the maintenance of eleven poor people. Besides these charities, several bequests have been made for the support of the poor.

South Bridge was an ancient structure, crossing the Frome, and probably coeval with William the Second; but being ruinous, was presented at the Easter sessions for the county, 1775. A handsome bridge of Purbeck stone has been since erected, having five arches, the expence of which amounted to 2932l. 10s. The salmon fishery on the above river, anciently belonged jointly to the Abbey of Bindon: the hoop-net, or wier, for taking the salmon, was fixed in the Wareham Royalty for several centuries; and its antiquity appears from various grants. The fishery is now held by Thomas Weld, of Lullworth, and John Calcraft, Esqrs.

The port of Wareham was formerly considerable; but, owing to the shallowness of the shore, and the retreat of the sea, it is nearly choaked; though at very high tides the water flows up to Holm

Digitized by Google

Bridge, nearly five miles. It had anciently a Court of Admiralty belonging to it: the quay lies on the south side of the town, but the trade is very inconsiderable; it chiefly consists in the exportation of pipe-clay, vast quantities of which are obtained from the clay-pits round the town; and nearly 10,000 tons are annually shipped off for London, Hull, Liverpool, Glasgow, &c. for the supply of the various potteries. This clay is of considerable use in the composition of Staffordshire ware; the digging it employs many hands. The number of inhabitants in this town, according to the late returns, was 1627; of houses, 381.

Wareham has given birth to several eminent persons, particularly the *Wake* family. WILLIAM WAKE, Rector of the Holy Trinity and St. Michael's, during the great rebellion, and grandfather to Archbishop Wake, was distinguished for his loyalty and his sufferings. He was committed to Dorchester Gaol by Major Sydenham; his house plundered by the soldiery, his estate sequestered, and his wife and family driven from their home. Upon his release, he retired to Sherborne Castle: this place was no sooner reduced for the Parliament, than Mr. Wake was again made prisoner, and sent to Poole. Hence he was removed to Corfe Castle; at the taking of which he was a third time made prisoner. On the conclusion of the war, he retired to Blandford, and jointly officiated at Brianston with Mr. Hooke; but being frequently molested, he was at length imprisoned at Dorchester, where he continued almost till the Restoration. During this distracted period, Mr. Wake experienced the horrors of imprisonment *nineteen* times; and only lived to enjoy the re-possession of his livings one year. He died in 1661, and was buried in his own Church, without any memorial. His son WILLIAM, having purchased the Manor of Shapwick Champayne in this county, was likewise a great sufferer for his loyalty. He was eighteen times a prisoner; and twice condemned to be hanged, but providentially saved. The son of the latter gentleman was the eminent and learned William Wake, D. D. Archbishop of Canterbury.

Among the other celebrated natives of Wareham, was DR. JOHN CHAPMAN, who was tutor to the great Lord Camden; Jacob Bryant,

Digitized by Google

Bryant, Dr. Cooke, the late Dr. Ashton, Dr. Barford; the late Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford; and other eminent persons.

ISLE OF PURBECK.

The bridge crossing the Frome from Wareham, connects the northern part of the county with the Isle of Purbeck, which comprehends the whole of the south-eastern corner of Dorset, from Luckford Lake, on the west, to the sea, and the river Frome, on the remaining sides. Though called an Island, it is more properly a peninsula; as it may be entered by land from East Lullworth. Its form is an irregular oval; the greatest length being about twelve miles, and the general breadth about seven. "The soil is altogether calcareous; and, for the most part, a continued mass of lime-stone, either white, and unmixed with shells, or brownish, and replete with them." Round Lullworth, large nodules of flint appear. The face of the Isle is irregular; the north and west sides being divided from the east by two ranges of high hills. Southwardly it is diversified with hill and dale, interspersed with brooks, and enriched with corn-fields, coppices, and pastures.

In old writings, the Isle of Purbeck is styled a *Forest*, *Chase*, and *Warren*. "King John made it a forest; but, by right, it ought to have been only a hare warren. The forest extended over the whole Isle, and the woods were well stocked with red and fallow deer, and stags, especially in the west part; but these were destroyed in the Civil Wars, and few, if any, have remained in the memory of man. James the First was the last of our Kings who hunted here. In former ages, there were many gentlemens' seats dispersed all over the Isle, now converted into farm-houses: most of them are spacious, but appear to have been larger. They were probably built for the reception and convenience of the nobility and gentry, who attended the Royal hunts here; as most of the owners of estates in this part of the country had their seats elsewhere, and only came hither in the hunting season.

"The quarries, shores, and cliffs, on the south side of the Isle, afford an inexhaustible fund of natural curiosities. The quarries are

Digitized by Google

are chiefly near Kingston, Worth, Langton, and Swanwich. In many parts of the Island is a stone, that rises thin, and is used for tiling; also a hard paving stone, which sweats against change of weather. Much of it was used in re-building London after the fire, particularly St. Paul's Cathedral; and for paving the streets and courts. In the new bridge of Westminster, over the fossit of each arch built with large Portland block, is another arch of Purbeck, bounded in with Portland stone: great quantities were carried to build Ramsgate Pier. This is the *ammites*, or free-stone, of various colours and qualities. At Swanwich is a white stone, full of shells, which takes a polish, and looks like alabaster: about Wareham and Morden, is found a stone of an iron-colour, called fire-stone, which rises in blocks, sometimes very large. At, and near Dunshay, was formerly dug marble of several colours; blue, red, spotted, and grey, but chiefly the latter; all of a coarse sort. The grey is a congeries of shells: vast quantities of it are found in all our ancient Churches, Parochial, Conventual, and Cathedral; and it was in great repute for grave-stones and monuments. The *Cornua Ammonis* are frequently found in stones in the quarries, some of them two or three feet in diameter."*

The government of the Isle was anciently exercised by a Lord Lieutenant, generally the Governor of Corfe Castle, who was Admiral of the Isle, and had power to raise and muster a militia. This power ceased when the militia act was passed, and the direction of it is now under the Lord Lieutenant of the county: its privileges were antiently great, and it was exempt from any services in the county; but the former mostly ceased after the demolition of Corfe Castle.†

The small village of STOWBOROUGH, consisting only of forty houses, at a short distance south of Wareham, is, by the traditionary accounts of the inhabitants, asserted to have been the Mother-Town; and the fact of its having formerly been governed by a Mayor, has been advanced in support of this supposition. The Mayor was annually chosen at Michaelmas; but since the passing of the schism act in the year 1714, the office has been discontinued,

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 275. † Ibid.

Digitized by Google

discontinued, the then inhabitants being Dissenters, and refusing to qualify themselves. Since that period the Officer possessing the local jurisdiction, has been styled the Bailiff.

"At the south end of Stowborough, in the road to Grange, stood a barrow, called *King Barrow*, one hundred feet in diameter, and twelve feet in perpendicular height. On digging it down, January the twenty-first, 1767, to form the turnpike road, the following discovery was made. The barrow was composed of strata or layers of turf, in some of which the heath was not perished. In the centre, at the bottom, even with the surface of the ground, in the natural soil of sand, was found a very large hollow trunk of an oak, rudely excavated, ten feet long, the outer diameter four feet, that of the cavity three feet: it lay horizontally south-east, and north-west; and the upper part and ends were much rotted. In the cavity were found as many human bones, unburnt, black, and soft, as might be contained in a quarter of a peck; viz. a bone of an arm, two thigh bones, two blade bones, the head of the humerus, part of the pelvis, and several ribs: the last would lap round the finger. There were no remains of the scull, and many bones were scattered and lost; others entirely consumed; and all had been wrapped up in a large covering, composed of several skins, some as thin as parchment, others much thicker, especially where the hair remained, which showed they were deer skins. They were in general black, but not rotten; neatly sewed together; and there were many small slips whose seams or stitches were scarcely two inches asunder. As the laborers expected to find money, these were pulled out with so much eagerness, and so torn, that the shape of the whole could not be discovered. This wrapper seemed to have been passed several times round the body, and in some parts adhered to the trunk. In the middle of it the bones were compressed flat in a lump, and cemented together by a glutinous matter, perhaps the moisture of the body. On unfolding the wrapper, a disagreeable smell was perceived, such as is usual at the first opening of a vault. A piece of what was imagined to be gold lace, four inches long, two and a half broad, stuck on the inside of the wrapper, very black, and much de-

Digitized by Google

cayed: bits of wire plainly appeared in it. Near the south-east end was found a small vessel of oak, of a black colour: it was much broken, but enough was preserved to show it was in the shape of an urn. On the south side were hatched, as with a graving tool, many lines; some horisontal, others oblique. Its long diameter at the mouth, is three inches; the short one, two; its depth, two; its thickness, two tenths of an inch: it was probably placed at the head of the corpse."*

CORFE CASTLE

Is an ancient market-town, situated nearly in the centre of the Isle, at the foot of a range of hills, on a rising ground, declining to the east. Its origin must undoubtedly be attributed to the Castle, which existed previous to the year 980; though the town itself does not appear to have attained any importance till after the Conquest, as it was wholly unnoticed in the Domesday Book. The Manor and Castle seem always to have descended together, and were often granted to princes of the blood, and the favorites of our kings, yet as often reverted to the Crown by attainder or forfeiture. In the reign of Richard the Second, they were held by Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, jointly with Alicia, his wife. In the reign of Henry the Fourth, they were granted to the *Beauforts*, Earls of Somerset; but were taken from that family by Edward the Fourth, who bestowed them successively on Richard, Duke of York, and George, Duke of Clarence: on the attainder of the latter, they reverted to the Crown. Henry the Seventh granted them to his mother, the Countess of Richmond, for life. In the twenty-seventh of

* Hutchins, Vol. I. p. 49, 2d Edit. This vessel, supposed to have been a drinking cup, and part of the wrapper, is now in the possession of Mr. Gough, who observes, "that there is no pretence for supposing the body found with it to have been that of *Edward the Martyr*, (as some visionaries had done;) but that it is highly probable it belonged to some petty Prince or Chieftain of the Saxons, or Danes." *Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain.* From the oaken cup, and piece of gold lace with the wires, Mr. King imagined the tumulus to have been that of a Druid.

Digitized by Google

of his successor, Henry the Eighth, an Act of Parliament was passed, by which they were given to Henry, Duke of Richmond, his natural son. After his death they reverted to the Crown, and were, by Edward the Sixth, bestowed on the Duke of Somerset; whose zeal for the Reformation was undoubtedly invigorated by the numerous grants of abbey lands made to him after the suppression of the Monasteries. On the Duke's attainder, the demesne lands of the Castle were leased for twenty-one years, on a fee-farm rent of 7l. 13s. 4d. In the fourteenth of Elizabeth, the Castle and manor, with the whole Isle of Purbeck, were granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, whose heirs continued possessors till the commencement of the seventeenth century, when the Manor and Castle were given by Sir William Hatton to his lady, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Exeter, and afterwards second wife to Lord Chief Justice Coke, who sold them, in the year 1635, to Sir John Bankes, Attorney General to Charles the First, and afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. His descendant, Henry Bankes, Esq. and Representative for this borough, is the present owner.

Though this is an ancient borough by prescription, it was not incorporated till the eighteenth of Queen Elizabeth, when a charter was obtained by Sir Christopher Hatton, by which the inhabitants were invested with the same liberties as those of the Cinque-Ports; besides being favored with various other privileges. This charter was afterwards confirmed by James the First and Charles the Second. The government of the town is vested in a Mayor, and eight Barons; the Barons are those who have borne the office of Mayor. The first return to Parliament was made in the fourteenth of Elizabeth: the right of election is possessed by all persons within the borough who are "seized in fee, in possession, or reversion, of any messuage, or tenement, or corporal hereditament; and in such as are tenants for life, or lives; and in want of such freehold, in tenants for years, determinable on any life, or lives, paying scot and lot."* The number of voters is between forty and fifty.

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol I. p. 279. 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

This town consists principally of two streets of mean stone buildings: the number of houses, as returned under the late act, was 152; of inhabitants, 741. Many of the latter are employed in the clay works and stone quarries in the neighbourhood; and some few in the knitting of stockings. The children of the poorer classes are taught the rudiments of learning and good conduct in Sunday Schools, which owe their origin to the praise-worthy exertions of William Morton Pitt, Esq.* of Kingston House, and are supported by voluntary subscriptions. The Church is a large, ancient fabric, at the east part of the town, near the commencement of the two streets. It consists of a nave, chancel, two aisles, and a large embattled tower. The roof is supported by twelve irregular arches; and connected with the porch are four pillars in the Saxon style, but all different: several of the windows are long and lancet-shaped.

CORFE CASTLE "stands a little north of the town, opposite to the Church, on a very steep rocky hill, mingled with hard rubble chalk stone, in the opening of those ranges of hills that inclose the east part of the Isle. Its situation between the ends of these hills deprives it much of its natural and artificial strength, being so commanded by them, that they overlook the tops of the highest towers; yet its structure is so strong, the ascent of the hill on all sides but the south, so steep, and the walls so massy and thick, that it must have been one of the most impregnable fortresses in the kingdom before the invention of artillery. It was of great importance in respect to its command over the whole Isle; whence our

* The Sunday Schools of Dorsetshire were among the first established in Great Britain; and are indebted for their institution to the indefatigable endeavors of the above Gentleman. The district which includes Corfe Castle is about ten miles in length, and eight in breadth, and contains twelve or thirteen schools, distributed through the different parishes; each being governed by a Committee of the principal inhabitants, acting under the superintendence of a General Committee, who meet at Corfe Castle as occasion may require. The average number of children who attend them in the course of a year, is nearly 400. Some excellent regulations relative to the general management of Sunday Schools, may be seen in Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 308, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

our Saxon ancestors justly styled it Corf Gate, as being the pass and avenue into the best part of the Isle."*

The Castle is separated from the town by a strong bridge of four very high, narrow, semicircular arches, crossing a moat of considerable depth, but now dry. This bridge leads to the gate of the first Ward,† which remains pretty entire, probably from the

 thickness

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 280, 2d Edit.

† The following particular description of the four Wards is given in Hutchins's History of Dorset: the author acknowledges himself indebted for the chief part of it to Ralph Treswell, Sir Christopher Hatton's Steward, who left a ground plot and perspective view of the Castle, which are now in the possession of Henry Bankes, Esq. both having been engraved for the above work.

"*First Ward.* The outer gate is large, and has a round tower on each side; in which, as in all others, are several long narrow apertures for discharging arrows, or small arms. This gate leads into the first ward, in which are eight round towers, including those on each side of the gate: on one that fronts the east, are the arms of Marshall, Earl of Pembroke; *five fusils in fess.* On the west side, near the wall, is a well, stopped up, and before it, the marks of a rampart, designed to cover it from all attempts to throw any thing into it from the opposite hill. This ward is not so ancient as the east, nor are the walls so strong. It was probably the addition of a later age, as an out-work to the principal part. Here the inhabitants shew the room where the smiths, plumbers, and other artificers, wrought, which, with other particulars, were transmitted down, by several ancient people, living about 1710, and employed at the siege, or demolition. The area of this ward rises towards the north; and at the foot of the hill is a ditch drawn across it, much shallower than the former, with a small bridge over it, leading into the upper wards.

"After passing the second bridge of one arch, we enter the *Second Ward*, by a gate in all respects like the former. Here most probably was the spot where the cruel murder of the King was committed. The left side of the gate, with the tower, is parted from the wall and the rest of the gate, having, according to tradition, been undermined, in order to demolish it; but before that could be completed, the props gave way, and this side slid, near half its height, into the ditch. It is surprizing, so vast a piece, several tons in weight, should settle in so perpendicular an attitude. It projects four feet nine inches further than the other part.* The breadth of the sunk part of the gate is twenty-three feet

* The famous tower in Caerphilly Castle in Glamorganshire, ruined by the same means, projects seven feet from its perpendicular. That is only one side, whereas this is an entire tower: two more in the west side of the first ward here have been forced entire from their basis, and overhang the hill.

Digitized by Google

thickness of the walls, which, from the outward to the inner facing, is full nine yards. The ruins of the entrance to the second Ward,

feet two inches. Just within the gate, on the right-hand, was a flight of stairs, which led up to the Great, or King's Tower. At the higher end, or point, the hill forms a spur, or angle, pointing west, and called *The Dungeon*, as the tower on the extremity of it is named *The Dungeon Tower*, and said to be the place of imprisonment for prisoners of war; or such as had committed offences in the jurisdiction of the town or Castle. Near this tower is shown a stone, projecting out of the wall, in which is cut a deep notch: it is said to be the place of execution. Next this tower is another, called *The Prison Chapel*. Between these is a sally-port: the wall on the west in this angle, seems to be the most ancient part of the Castle, and built in a different style from the rest: the courses of the stone being oblique, in the Roman manner, shew that it was built so, early in the Saxon times, when that mode of building was not quite laid aside. In this wall are two low doors, even with the ground, perhaps sally-ports. Near them is a circular door, and two elliptical windows. In this ward are five round towers, including those on each side of the gate.

"*Third Ward.* This was the principal ward, situate on the highest part of the hill. In the west part, on the very top of the hill, stood the *Great, or King's Tower*, which fronts the west, and was seventy-two feet by sixty square, and about eighty high; the wall twelve feet thick. Two of the battlements are still remaining. It commands the rest of the Castle, town, and all the adjacent country, except the two ranges of hills on the east and west. The west side of the tower is entire, having at the back, a gallery of three high round arches, with two stories of small square rooms. The north side of the tower is fallen, and only part of the south sides remain; some of which are of equal height with that on the west. The vast fragments of it, several yards square, shew the strength of the mortar, and cover so much of the area, that one cannot form any notion of the buildings that formerly occupied it. This seems to have been the state prison, all the windows that remain being extremely high from the floor, to prevent escapes. At the foot of the west end, the earth is removed from the foundation above two feet, in order to throw it down; but the difficulty and danger of effecting it, seems to have obliged the workmen to desist. On the south and west sides, near this tower, was a semicircular platform, over which, in 1586, were five pieces of cannon mounted. A little south of this tower is a small platform, opposite to the Church, perhaps made in the last sieges, to answer the enemy's battery there. It overlooks the town, and affords a fine prospect over the south and west parts of the Isle. In the east part of the ward stood *The Queen's Tower*, and, perhaps, *St. Mary's Chapel*; but of these little remain. Here seems to have been the residence of the Lords of this Castle;

Digitized by Google

Ward, and of the tower near it, are very remarkable: "The latter (which once adjoined to the gate) was separated with a part of the arch at the time of the demolition of the Castle, and is moved down the precipice, preserving its perpendicularity, and projecting almost five feet below the corresponding part. Another of the towers on the same side, is, on the contrary, inclined so much, that a spectator will tremble when passing under it. The singular position of these towers seems to have been occasioned through the foundations being undermined (for blowing them up) in an incomplete manner. On the higher part of the hill stands the keep, or citadel, which is at some distance from the centre of the fortress, and commands a view of boundless extent, to the north and west: it has not hitherto suffered much diminution from its original height; the fury of the winds being resisted less by the thickness of the walls, than by the strength of the cement. The upper windows have Saxon arches, but are apparently of a later date than any other part of the building west of the keep, the stones of which being placed *herring-bone fashion*, prove it to be of the earliest style. The Chapel is of a very late date, as appears from its obtuse Gothic arches; and I have really an idea that almost all the changes of architecture, from the reign of Edgar, to that of Henry the Seventh, may be traced in this extensive and stupendous ruin.

"We could not view without horror the dungeons which remain in some of the towers: they recalled to our memory the truly diabolical cruelty of King John, by whose order twenty-two prisoners, confined in them, were starved to death. Matthew of Paris, the historian, says, that many of these unfortunate men were among the first of the Poitevin Nobility. Another instance

Castle; and the remains of the buildings shew a more neat and elegant taste. All this part was built on vaults, for cellars, store-rooms, and magazines.

"*The Fourth Ward* is the least of all, and lies on the north side of the last. In it was a small garden, at the east end, near which was a sally-port, where the enemy entered when the Castle was surprized; and near it a well, now stopped up, into which, tradition says, Lady Bankes threw a considerable quantity of money and plate; but this is not probable, because any communication with it must have been cut off."

Digitized by Google

of John's barbarous disposition, was his treatment of Peter of Pontefract, a poor hermit, who was imprisoned in Corfe Castle for prophesying the deposition of that Prince. Though the prophesy was in some measure fulfilled by the surrender which John made of his Crown to the Pope's Legate, the year following, yet the imprudent prophet was sentenced to be dragged through the streets of Wareham, tied to horses' tails."*

The exact period when this fortress was erected is unknown; though some circumstances render it probable that it was built by King Edgar. That it did not exist previously to the year 887, or 888, the time when the Nunnery at Shaftesbury was founded, is certain, from an inquisition taken in the fifty-fourth of Henry the Third; wherein the Jurors returned, "that the Abbess and Nuns at Shaston (Shaftesbury) had without molestation, *before the foundation of the Castle at Corfe*, all wrecks within their Manor of Kingston, in the Isle of Purbeck." Mr. Aubrey, in his *Monumenta Britannica*, observes, he was informed, that mention was made of Corfe Castle in the reign of King Alfred; yet it seems very improbable that this should be the fact; for if it had actually existed in the time of that Monarch, it would surely have been more publicly known. The short reigns that succeeded would not allow time for so extensive an undertaking; "but Edgar enjoyed more peace than almost any of his predecessors, was superior in wealth and power, and a great builder; he having founded, or repaired, no fewer than forty-seven Monasteries." To him, then, the origin of this Castle may with the greatest probability be ascribed, as his second wife, Elfrida, resided here at the commencement of her widowhood. During this residence was committed the foul murder on King Edward, Edgar's son and successor, of which William of Malmsbury relates the ensuing particulars.

"King Edward being hunting in a forrest neare the sea, upon the south-east coast of the countie of Dorset, and in the Isle of Purbecke, came neare unto a fair and stronge Castell, seated on a little river called Corfe, wherein his mother-in-law, *Elfrida*, with

* Maton's Observations, Vol. I. p. 19.

Digitized by Google

with her sonne Ethelred, then lived: the King, ever beareing a kinde affection to them, beeing soe neare, would needes make knowne soe much by his personall visitation; which haveing resolved, and beeing either of purpose, or by chance, singled from his followers, hee rode to the Castell gate. The Queen, who longe had looked for an opportunitie, that, by makeing him awaye, shee might make waye for her own sonne to the Crowne, was glad the occasion nowe offered itselfe; and therfore, with a modest and humble behaviour, shee bad him welcome, desireing to enjoye his presence that night. But hee, haveing performed what hee purposed, and doubting his companie might find him misseing, tolde her, that hee now intended on horseback to drink to her and his brother in a cuppe of wine, and so leave her; which beeing presented unto him, the cuppe was noe sooner at his mouth, but a knife was at his back, which a servant, appointed by this treacherous woman, stroke into him. The Kinge, findeing himselfe hurt, sett spurs to his horse, thinking to recover his companie; but the wounde beeing deepe, and fainting through the losse of much blood, he felle from his horse, which dragged him by one foot hanging in the stirrop, untill he was left dead at Corfe gate, Anno Dom. 979."

Thus far Malmsbury: Hutchins, in his History of Dorset, relates the circumstances of this event in the following words.

"The first mention of this Castle in our histories, is A. D. 978, as the Saxon Annals, (though some of our historians* say 979, and 981,) upon occasion of the barbarous murder of Edward, King of the West Saxons, son of King Edgar, committed here by his mother-in-law, Elfrith, or Elfrida; 15 cal. April, in the middle of lent: The foulest deed, says the Saxon annalist, ever committed by the Saxons since they landed in Britain. This transaction, and the motives to it, are so fully recorded by all our historians, that I shall content myself with mentioning a few incidents from Brompton."

'This

* Simeon Dunelm. p. 159. Brompton, p. 872. Knyghton, p. 2313. inter X Script. Leland's Collectanea, t. III. p. 187.

Digitized by Google

'This unfortunate Prince, hunting in a large wood near Wareham, when the chace was ended, towards evening,* recollecting that his brother resided hard by, resolved to make him a visit. Near this wood was Elfrida's house, where his mother was brought up, in a place called *Corpè*, (Br. a *body*,) three miles from Wareham, where now a famous Castle is built. He had lost his attendants; which Elfrida having notice of, thought it a favorable opportunity to execute her wicked purpose; and went to meet him with her wicked retinue; and in a most affable and friendly manner invited him to alight, which he declined, but expressed a desire to see his brother. She then called for wine, which he had scarce put to his lips, when one of her attendants, who had given the King the kiss of peace, stabbed him in the belly, or, as others say, in the back. Knyghton and Huntington say, Elfrida herself gave him both the kiss and the mortal wound, whilst he was drinking. Finding himself wounded, he rode away; but, fainting with loss of blood, his foot entangled in the stirrup, and he was dragged a considerable way, till the horse stopped of his own accord. The servants sent by Elfrida to know the issue of her treachery, found the unhappy Prince dead, terribly defaced with the flints over which he had been dragged. The Queen, to conceal the fact, ordered his body to be lodged in a house near, where it was covered with such mean clothes as were at hand. In this house lived a woman who was born blind, and maintained by the Queen's alms. At midnight she found her sight restored, and, to her great terror, the house filled with light. On this spot a Church was afterwards built. In the morning the Queen, being informed of these circumstances, fearing a discovery, ordered her attendants to convey the corpse secretly into a private and marshy place, where it could not easily be found. Others say she caused it to be thrown into a well. She then, to prevent suspicion, retired to a mansion of hers, called *Bere*, ten miles distant. Her own son Ethelred expressing his grief for his mother's wickedness, she beat him so severely with wax tapers, for want of something else, that he hated them ever after. Others say she had beaten Edward

* Henry Hunt. p. 204.

Digitized by Google

Edward with them in Ethelred's presence. The year following, the body was found, by the devout search of some faithful persons, by warning from heaven. A pillar of fire, descending from above, illuminated the place where it was hid. Some devout people of Wareham brought it to that vill, to the Church of St. Mary's, and buried it in a plain manner on the east side, where a wooden Church, afterwards built by religious persons, was to be seen in this author's time. The fountain where the body had lain yielded pure and sweet water, and was called *St. Edward's Fountain;* at which infirm people were daily healed. The news of these transactions being circulated, Alfer, Earl of Mercia, a faithful adherent to the deceased King, hearing the body was found, resolved to move it to a more suitable place; and, inviting the Bishops, Abbots, and Nobility, to assist him, sent to Wolfrida, Abbess of Wilton, to come with her Nuns, to perform the exequies. In that house was a sister of King Edward, daughter of King Edgar and Wolfrida, before she became a nun. The company, being joined by a great multitude of the country people, came to Wareham; where the body, on being taken out of the tomb, in which it had lain three years, was found as free from corruption as on the day it was placed in it. Thence it was, the same year, carried on a bier to Shaftesbury.* Among the concourse of people, were two poor, lame persons, who were cured on approaching the bier.† Elfrida, struck with remorse, prepared to follow the procession on horseback, and ask pardon for her crime; but her utmost efforts could not prevent the horse from running backwards. She then attempted to go on foot, with no better success. Knyghton says, she tried several horses; but not being able to make them go on, or to get forward herself, she committed the charge of the business to Alfer.‡ The Royal corpse was received at Shaston by the Abbess, and entombed on the north side of the principal altar, 12 cal. March.' Elfrida's ambition to raise her own son to the throne, urged her to commit this

* A. D. 980. Saxon Chronicle. Brompton. † Thorne's Chronicle.

‡ Knyghton says, 'Alfer died a miserable death the following year, being devoured by lice and worms.

Digitized by Google

this execrable murder; and, in order to expiate it and other, she had recourse to the general remedy of that age for an uneasy conscience, founding and endowing two Nunneries, at Amesbury in Wiltshire, and Whorwell in Hampshire; in which last she took the habit, and spent the remaining part of her life in great austerity and superstitious dread, and was buried there. The manner of this Prince's death, and the affection of the Monks, whom he much favored, gained him the surname of *Martyr*."

In the reign of King Stephen, the Castle was seized by Baldwin de Rivers, Earl of Devon; and though the King afterwards endeavored to dispossess him, his efforts were ineffectual. King John appears to have made it for some time his place of residence, as several writs, issued by him in the fifteenth and sixteenth of his reign, are dated at Corfe. On the coronation of Henry the Third, Peter de Mauley, the Governor of the Castle, was summoned to attend the ceremony, and to bring with him the regalia, "then in his custody in this Castle, wherewith he had been *entrusted* by John." The following year he delivered up the Castle to the King, with all the military engines, ammunition, and jewels, committed to his charge. Edward the Second was removed hither from Kenelworth Castle, when a prisoner, by order of the Queen, and her favorite Mortimer. Henry the Seventh repaired the Castle for the residence of his mother, the Countess of Richmond, the Parliament having granted 2000l. for that purpose; yet it does not appear that it was ever inhabited by this Princess. It was again repaired by Sir Christopher Hatton; and most probably by Sir John Bankes, whose lady became illustrious from the gallant manner in which she defended it from the attacks of the Parliament's forces, in the time of Charles the First. The particulars of this defence are thus related in Hutchins's Dorset.

"When Lord Chief Justice Bankes was gone to the King at York, in Easter term, 1642, his lady, with her children and *family*, retired hither, and remained in peace till May, 1643, when the rebels, commanded by Sir Walter Erle, and Sir Thomas Trenchard, having possessed themselves of all the towns on the sea-coast, resolved to make themselves master of this Castle. On May-day, the

Digitized by Google

the Mayor, Barons, and gentlemen of this Isle, had been accustomed to course a stag, when some troops of horse from Dorchester, &c. came into the Isle, to surprise the gentlemen and Castle. On this the hunters dispersed, and Lady Bankes ordered the gates to be shut. Some of them came to the Castle, under pretence of seeing it, but were denied entrance. She, perceiving their design, called in a guard. The committee of Poole, suspecting her of an intention to victual and man the Castle, demanded four small pieces of cannon; but, on her request, that they might remain for her defence, and causing them to take off the carriages, it was allowed. A few days after, forty seamen came to demand them by virtue of a warrant from the commissioners; but Lady Bankes, assisted by five men only, and her maid servants, mounted them, and discharging one of them, they all fled. She then summoned help by beat of drum, and a considerable guard of her tenants and friends came to her assistance, and fifty arms were brought in from the Isle. This guard continued a week, during which time letters were sent in, threatening, that, if the cannon were not delivered, greater force would be used, and the houses of her friends and neighbours would be fired. Two hundred weight of powder was intercepted; and proclamation was made at Wareham, that no provisions should be sold for her use. Strict watch was kept, that no message or intelligence should pass in or out of the Castle. Being thus distressed, (all means of victualling the Castle being taken away,) and slenderly provided with ammunition or victuals for a siege, they came to a treaty to deliver up the four pieces, the biggest of which was but a three-pounder, on condition that she should enjoy peace and quietness. But she, not depending on this, took every opportunity to strengthen herself by the very means by which the world thought she had weakened herself. For the rebels, now looking upon themselves as sure, grew remiss in their watches, and negligent in intercepting supplies; she made good use of this, and furnished herself with provisions, one hundred weight and a half of powder, and match proportionable; and on the advance of the King's forces, under Prince Maurice and the Marquis of Hertford, to Blandford, she represented the condition and

Digitized by Google

and consequence of the place, and want of a commander. Captain Laurence, son of Sir Edward Laurence, was sent to command; but he, coming without a commission, could not order provisions and money till it was too late: there was also one Captain Bond, an old soldier, in the Castle. The first time the rebels came before it, they brought a body of between two and three hundred horse and foot, and two pieces of ordnance, which from the hills played on the Castle, fired four houses in the town, and summoned the Castle, but receiving a denial, left it.

"June 23d, 1643, Sir Walter Erle, Captain Sydenham, Captain Henry Jarvis, Captain Scott of Poole, with a body of five or six hundred, taking the opportunity of a misty morning, possessed themselves of the town. They brought a demy-cannon, a culverine, and two sakers. With these, and their small arms, they played on the Castle from all quarters. They obliged the soldiers by oath to give no quarter in case of a resistance, and endeavored by all means to corrupt the defendants. To make their approaches to the walls with more safety, they made two engines, one called the *Boar*, the other the *Sow*, framed of boards lined with wool, to deaden the shot. When the Sow moved forwards, the besieged aimed their shot at their legs, which were not covered; nine run away, and one was killed out of eleven. The Boar durst not advance. The principal battery was from the Church, which was their rampart and rendezvous. The surplice was made into two shirts. They broke the organ, and made the pipes serve for cases to hold powder and shot. They cut off the lead of the Church, rolled it up, and shot it. Sir Walter Erle and the commanders earnestly pressed on the soldiers; but, prodigal as they were of their blood, they were sparing enough of their own. Sir Walter never willingly exposed himself; and, being once endangered by a shot through the coat, put on a bear's skin, and, for fear of the musket shot, for the besieged had no other, he was seen to creep on all fours on the side of the hill. This cowardice of the assailants added courage and resolution to the defendants. They once sallied to brave the rebels, rather than compelled by want,

Digitized by Google

want, and brought in eight cows and a bull. Another time five boys fetched in four cows.

"Having spent much time and ammunition with little success, the Earl of Warwick sent them 150 mariners, and several cart-loads of petards, granadoes, &c. for an assault. They offered 20l. to the first man that should scale the wall, and so by descending sums to the twentieth man: but, as this order had no effect, they made them drunk with strong waters. Sir Walter, for fear he should be valiant against his will, was the only man who came sober to the assault. Thus armed with drink, they storm the Castle on all sides, and apply the scaling ladders; and it was ordered by their leaders, that, when twenty men were entered, they should give a watch-word to the rest, which was *Old Watt;* an ominous word, as it proved. They divided their forces into two parties; one assaulted the middle ward, defended by Captain Laurence, and the greatest part of the garrison; the other assaulted the upper ward, which Lady Bankes, her daughters, women, and five soldiers, defended; and, to her eternal honour, as bravely performed it. For, by heaving over stones and hot embers, they repulsed the rebels, and kept them from climbing the ladders, to throw in wild fire, which they had ready in their hands. They had killed and wounded in the siege and assault 100 men.

"Sir Walter, hearing the King's forces, under the Earl of Caernarvon, were advancing, retired to London, in great haste, and left Sydenham to bring off the ordnance, ammunition, and remainder of the soldiers, who retired into the Church, intending to march off in the night; but as supper was set on the table, an alarm was given, that the King's forces were near. On this he left his supper, artillery, and ammunition, and took boat for Poole, leaving 100 horses on the shore, which the besieged made their prize. Thus after six weeks strict siege, this Castle, the key of those parts, was, by the resolution of that honourable lady, and the valor of Captain Laurence, and about eighty soldiers, with the loss of only two men, delivered, August 4th, 1643."*

In

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 284, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

In the years 1645 and 1646, the Castle was again besieged, or rather blockaded, by the Parliament's forces, who obtained possession through the treachery of Lieutenant-Colonel Pitman, an officer of the garrison. When it was delivered up, the Parliament ordered it to be demolished; and the walls and towers were undermined, and thrown down, or blown up with gunpowder. "Thus this ancient and magnificent fabric was reduced to a heap of ruins, and remains a lasting monument of the dreadful effects of anarchy, and the rage of civil war. The ruins are large, and allowed to be the noblest and grandest in the kingdom, considering the extent of the ground on which they stand. The vast fragments of the King's Tower, the round towers leaning as if ready to fall, the broken walls, and vast pieces of them tumbled down into the vale below, form such a scene of havock and desolation, as strikes every curious spectator with horror and concern."*

Between two and three miles from Corfe, eastward, is NINE BARROW DOWN, an eminence which derives its name from nine large *Barrows* situated on it in a line, and supposed to be of British construction. The whole number of barrows on this Down are sixteen; most of them are circular, and very neatly shaped: their dimensions are various. Eight or ten are surrounded with a shallow trench; and near them is a hollow, or cavity. The most elevated part of this Down is 642 feet above low-water mark. The prospect it commands is exceedingly extensive, and beautiful: the village and bay of Swanwich, the British Channel beyond it, the sandy shores of Hampshire, and the white cliffs of the Isle of Wight, are all included in the view.

GRANGE, or CREECH GRANGE, the seat of *John Bond*, Esq. was anciently the retiring place of the Abbot of Bindon, and part of the possessions of the Abbey. After the Dissolution it came to the Laurence family, the last of whom sold it, about the time of Charles the Second, to Nathaniel Bond, Esq. ancestor to the present owner. The Mansion is an elegant and convenient structure: it was built by the Laurences, but has been greatly improved

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 286. 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

proved by the late Dennis Bond, Esq. and the present owner. The grounds are very pleasant; and, from the judicious intermixture of groves, lawns, and pieces of water, form an agreeable contrast to a dreary heath which nearly surrounds the estate.

On the hill to the south of this mansion, a similar *Phenomenon* is recorded to have been observed, to that seen in the year 1744 on the mountain Souter-Fell, in Cumberland.* This was the visionary semblance of a vast number of armed men, apparently several thousands, who appeared to be marching from Flower's Barrow, over Grange Hill: at the same time a great noise, and clashing of arms, was supposed to be heard. These appearances were observed on an evening in December, 1678, by Captain John Laurence, then owner of Grange, his brother, and "by all the people in the cottages and hamlets thereabouts, who left their supper and houses, and came to Wareham, and alarmed the town; on which the boats were all drawn to the north side of the river, and the bridge barricadoed. Three hundred of the militia were also marched to Wareham; and Captain Laurence and his brother went post to London, and deposed the particulars on oath before the Council."†

* See Vol. III. p. 58.

† Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 327, 2d Edit. "I have in my possession," continues our author, "an original letter, written by Mr. Thomas Dolman, I suppose then clerk of the Council, dated December 14, 1678, directed to George Fulford, and Robert Cotton, Esqrs. Officers of the Militia, wherein he tells them, Mr. Secretary Coventry had communicated their letter of the 10th instant, touching the number of armed men, pretended to be seen in Purbeck, to the Lords of the Council, who commanded him to let them know, that they took in good part their care of putting themselves in a posture of defence; and that the contrivers and spreaders of this false news were ordered to be sent for, to be dealt with according to their deserts; and had not Captain Laurence and his family been of known affection to the Government, he would have been severely punished. This phenomenon seems to have been owing to the thick fogs and mists that often hang on the hills in Purbeck, and form grotesque appearances of craggy rocks, and ruins of buildings. At this time the evening sun might glance on these, which, assisted and improved by a strong imagination, caused the spectators to fancy what never existed."

Digitized by Google

KIMERIDGE, a miserable village about one mile from the sea, is situated near an abrupt termination of a ridge of hills, which, in this vicinity, are composed of a white compact species of lime-stone, with very narrow veins of chert appearing towards the base. "There seems to be a transition of one of these substances into the other; for we discovered that such parts of the veins of chert as were contiguous to the lime-stone, effervesced slightly with acids, forming an intermediate species, as it were; both had a strong bituminous smell when rubbed with steel."*

The Manor of Kimeridge belonged to the Abbey of Cerne previous to the Conquest, and continued to form part of its possessions till the Dissolution, when Henry the Eighth granted it to Sir William Uvedale, Knt. In the fourteenth of Elizabeth it became the property of John Clavel, in a collateral branch of whose family it still remains. This parish is productive of *Alum Mines*, which appear to have been discovered by Lord Mountjoy, who procured a patent to make alum here, but the plan was not successful. After this, Sir William Clavel searched, and had brought the making of alum to perfection, when the works were seized by a person who had obtained the King's patent for making alum, to the exclusion of all others; and Sir William, after expending above 4000l. and building a pier of stone 100 feet in length, sixty broad, and fifty high, was obliged to desist. On the cliffs bordering Kimeridge Bay, about sixteen feet only below the summit, a *Fossil Coal* is dug; which Dr. Maton describes as "an argillaceous slate, in a high degree of impregnation with bitumen, and of a blackish brown color. It is found in large lumps, in a stratum about three feet deep, but does not extend to any great distance from the shore. It burns very strong and bright; and emits a sulphureous smell. When exposed to the atmosphere, it soon falls into pieces; but in the cliffs, or under water, it is very hard. The price is about eight shillings per ton: it is chiefly used in ovens, and by the poor people."†

Near

* Maton's Observations, &c. Vol. I. p. 32.

† Hutchins's Dorset.

Digitized by Google

Near *Smedmore*, in this parish, " is found what the country people call COAL MONEY. This is generally discovered two or three feet below the top of the cliffs, inclosed between two stones set edgeways, and covered with a third, like kistvaens, and mingled with a few bones of some animal. Sometimes many of the pieces are found in the adjoining grounds, near the surface; and it is observable, that the spot where they lie seems to be made ground: they are of a round form; from one to two, or three inches and a half in diameter, and a quarter of an inch thick: one side is flat, the other convex, on which are several mouldings. On the flat side are two, sometimes four, small round holes near the rim; but they do not penetrate through the piece. Antiquaries conclude them to be British antiquities; but whether amulets or money, is not agreed."*

ENCOMBE, a seat of William Morton Pitt, Esq. one of the Representatives for this county, occupies the bosom of a very deep vale, that opens to the British Channel. The situation is extremely fine; and a piece of water near the house is so happily managed, as to have the appearance, from the windows, of forming part of the sea, which terminates the view along the vale. The grounds are disposed with much taste; the plantations are extensive; and the mansion itself is a very handsome building of Purbeck stone. Its site was formerly occupied by the ancient manor-house of the *Cullifords;* but the manor and farm passed from that family in pursuance of an act made for the " payment of debts," in the year 1734. Soon afterwards it was purchased by Mrs. Lora Pitt, who gave it to her second son, John, late a Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, and Surveyor General of his Majesty's Woods and Forests. This gentleman erected the present edifice in place of the ancient house, which was much decayed. In the year 1753, " was found on this farm, a *Mushroom* that weighed eight pounds, was fifteen inches long, ten round, eight deep, and almost in the form of a figure of 8."†

ST. ADHELM'S HEAD, a noted sea-mark, and one of the most elevated parts of the Purbeck coast, is a bold cliff, rising to

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol I. p. 316. † Ibid, p. 298.

Digitized by Google

the height of nearly 440 feet, almost perpendicularly. On the very brink of the precipice, exposed to the full fury of the winds, is a small stone square Chapel, measuring seven yards square, now neglected, and in ruins. The roof is vaulted, and sustained on a single pillar, and four circular arches, that intersect each other. The entrance is on the west side, under a round arched door-way; at the south-east corner is a small window. This was "dedicated to St. Adhelm, and seems to have been anciently a chantry, in which religious rites were performed for the safety of mariners, whose perils must often have been audibly announced to the priest by the thundering roar of the waves against the rocks." Near this cliff, the *Halsewell* East Indiaman, Captain Pierce, was wrecked, on the morning of the sixth of January, 1786; and so dreadful was the storm, that in two hours after the ship struck, not an atom of her was to be seen.*

SWANWICH, or *Swanage*, is a large and populous village, situated on a very low spot at the south-eastern extremity of the Isle, near the margin of Swanwich Bay. It was anciently a chapelry to Worth Matravers, but was made a distinct parish about the year 1500. Near this place the Danish fleet was wrecked in the reign of King Alfred; though Bishop Gibson, in his application of the names of places at the end of the Saxon Chronicle, mistakenly assigns that event to an inland village, called Swanwich, in

* The circumstances attending this fatal wreck, are melancholy in the extreme. Captain Pierce was the oldest officer in the Company's service, and was just proceeding on his last voyage to India, accompanied by his two daughters, and several other relatives. A short time before the ship went to pieces, the Captain called Mr. Meriton, the second mate, into the cuddy, "where his two daughters, two nieces, and three other beautiful young ladies, were clinging round him for protection; and, on being told that it was impossible for the ladies to escape, he nobly resolved to share their fate; and addressing himself to his daughters, and enfolding them in his arms, he said, "Then, my dear children, we will perish together." The ship disappeared in a few minutes. The unhappy wretches who gained the rocks were in a more dreadful situation; many of them being dashed to pieces by the force of the returning surge. No fewer than one hundred and sixty-eight persons perished; and of the eighty-two that escaped (chiefly through the heroic exertions of the neighbouring quarriers) many were terribly bruised, and others had their limbs broken."

Digitized by Google

in Hampshire. The houses are chiefly of stone, but small and low; and are disposed in one street, extending nearly a mile in length. The Church is a very spacious structure, of dissimilar styles of architecture, it having been enlarged at different periods, as the inhabitants of the parish increased. The tower is the most ancient part; and, according to tradition, was erected before the birth of Christ. "It is, perhaps, the oldest building in the Isle, not excepting even Corfe Castle; for though composed of the same sort of stone, this has acquired a greater degree of nitrous incrustation than that has, and like it, the mortar is almost petrified, or turned into stone, by length of time. The walls are very thick, and about eighty feet in perpendicular height: the chief entrance was through a large arch in the east side, which now serves for a passage into the Church. In this side, and at about halfway the height, is a large arched window. In the upper loft are four lancet windows, one on each side; besides some small apertures for the admission of light in every loft."* The tower is without ornament of any kind.

In the year 1788, William Morton Pitt, Esq. set on foot a plan for the establishment of a herring fishery here, and manufactory of dried herrings; and having contributed himself, prevailed on several reputable merchants to join him. Several houses were erected for smoking and curing them. The season for fishing usually begins in September, and continues about two months; and the number of persons employed during the season is considerable; the herrings, when cured, are in part disposed of in the neighbourhood; the rest are shipped for Portsmouth, London, and other places.†

Swanwich derives its chief importance from the *Stone Quarries*, of which there are upwards of sixty within the parish, constantly worked. When they were originally opened is unknown, as they have been worked time immemorially. "It is certain, however, that the columns in Salisbury Cathedral, which were finished in 1258, and likewise the Hall at Winchester, an ancient building,

 are

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 259. ad Edit. † Ibid.

Digitized by Google

are made of the stone (though not now in use) called Purbeck marble, dug near the fort, at the point of land called Peverel Point, that runs into the sea, and forms one side of Swanwich Bay. There are likewise some miles within land very large quarries where this marble is supposed to have been formerly dug.*

The stone is of various descriptions; but is chiefly composed of shells, and other marine *exuviæ*, closely cemented together by a calcareous spar. "Immense rocks extend along the coast to St. Adhelm's Head, and beyond, and it seems to be the *basis* of the southern part of Purbeck. It exhibits different degrees of fineness, and the decomposition of the shells is much further advanced in some specimens than in others. In the interstices of the *strata* of lime-stone about Peverel Point, are numerous glittering crystals of selenite, formed in a sort of fibrous marl. The surface of this marl is here and there covered with a fine farinaceous gypsum; and it appears also in an indurated state, constituting alternate strata with the lime-stone. Pyrites abound in the latter, and hence the sulphuric acid concerned in the formation of the selenite and gypsum seems to be obtained."†

Fossils of different species of fish are frequently dug out of the quarries, as well as petrifactions of other marine productions. Mr. Bonfield, a merchant of Swanwich, has two very perfect resemblances of bream fish in his possession; one of them is fourteen inches in length, and five in breadth; the other nine inches and three quarters in length, and three inches and three quarters in breadth. The quarriers, or stone merchants, are united in a Society, governed by particular regulations, and meet annually on Shrove Tuesday, at Corfe Castle, where they keep their records. The quantity of stone shipped from the quay annually, is nearly 50,000 tons; the best sort sells for 12s. per ton at the vessel. Most of the blocks are previously cut into convenient masses for paving and building. The number of houses in this parish, as returned under the population act, was 300; of inhabitants, 1382: the women and children are chiefly employed in spinning flax.

STUDLAND

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 351. 2d Edit.

† Maton's Observations, Vol. I. p. 20.

Digitized by Google

STUDLAND is a small village, consisting of about fifty or sixty houses scattered over a common, near a romantic range of cliffs, "which end in a narrow neck of land, called the South-Haven Point, and form a boundary to Poole Harbour. The cliffs are composed of a compact yellow sand-stone, in which are several cavities, darkened by overhanging shrubs."* On the common are several barrows, differently shaped; some large and oblong; most of them round and rude; but what particularly excites remark, is, the *Adlingestone*, or AGGLESTONE,† an extraordinary insulated rock, which rests on an apparently natural eminence to the west of Studland Bay. This immense stone is somewhat in the shape of an inverted cone, or irregular triangle; one of whose sides is placed uppermost, though it might have been originally quadrilateral. Its circumference, at a medium, is about eighty feet; its height nearly twenty. "On the east front it is convex, or gibbous; on the west nearly flat; on the top, a ridge, or bulge, runs its whole length from north to south, whence it slopes away to the east, six feet, and to the west, five. There is a considerable cleft in the middle from east to west; and on the surface are three hollows, or cavities, perhaps rock-basons, in which ravens are bred. It is overgrown with heath, and turfs have been cut there; the stone is much worn by the weather, and the surface is very unequal, rough, and full of cracks, and likewise parts into horizontal layers, or laminæ, especially on the east side, and at the ends: the quarriers compute its weight at 400 tons." The eminence on which it is raised occupies upwards of half an acre: the steepest part of the slope is 300 feet, and the perpendicular height, ninety; and is entirely covered with heath, fern, and furze: round the bottom appear traces of a shallow ditch almost filled up.

From the circumstance of the barrows which surround this singular monument, as well as the barrow-like form of the hill on which it stands, it has been supposed to have been raised to the memory of a British Chief; though whether it was intended for a

* Maton's Observations, Vol. II. p. 22.

† From the Saxon Halig-Han, i. e. Holy Home.

Digitized by Google

sepulchral memorial, or whether the heap of earth was thrown up only to render the top of the rock accessible, is uncertain. The term Agglestone undoubtedly seems to imply an appropriation to religious purposes; but what those purposes were must be left to conjecture.

A question has been started whether this rock has been brought hither, and raised by art, or whether it is not rather the growth of the spot; the latter seems most probable. The ancient Britons, there is little doubt, had skill to lift great weights, as is evinced by many indisputed remains; nor is the magnitude of the Agglestone greater than that of the *Tolmen* at Constantine, in Cornwall, mentioned by Dr. Borlase; yet the enormous bulk of this stone in its primitive state, may incline one rather to imagine it to be a natural rock, and that the barrow (if such it is) was formed by a collection of earth thrown up round it: the red heath-sand, or moorstone, is very common all over the heath; though it does not abound hereabouts in any large masses. Ferrugineous sand-stone is plentiful throughout the north-east part of Purbeck, which is a bleak, unfruitful heath; and, from its proximity to the sea, cliffs and hills of sand are continually there accumulating, which exactly applies to the circumstances of the Agglestone; and moist semi-oxygenated particles of iron (observes Dr. Maton) are well known to have an agglutinating power; this monument, therefore, which is composed of ferrugineous sand-stone, appears to me to have been formed on the spot; and there can be no necessity for supposing that the Druids (if it be true that it is a Druidical monument) would bring so enormous a mass from a distance. The country people call it the *Devil's Night-Cap;* and there is a tradition, that his Satanic Majesty threw it from the Isle of Wight, with an intent to demolish Corfe Castle.*

THE ISLE OF BROWNSEA

Is situated about three miles north-west of Studland, at the east end of the bay of Poole, opposite to the entrance. Its form is

* Western Counties, Vol. I. p. 22.

Digitized by Google

is an irregular oval; its length is about one mile and a half, and its greatest breadth three quarters of a mile. It contains about 300 acres, well watered; but the soil is sandy, and the Isle is partly over-run with heath, furze, and fern. In the reign of Charles the Second, it belonged to Sir Robert Clayton, of whose heirs it was purchased about the year 1726, for 300l. by William Benson, Esq. Auditor of the Imprest. It is now in possession of the Sturt family, by whom considerable plantations have been made, and many acres of land brought into cultivation. On the east part of the Isle is an embattled Mansion, called BROWNSEA CASTLE; a building originally constructed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the Corporation of Poole, for the defence of the harbour and town. This was strongly fortified in the Civil Wars; but having fallen to decay, was fitted up by the late Humphrey Sturt, Esq. as a domestic residence. On this small Isle many curious plants are obtained; numerous specimens of which were collected under the direction of Auditor Benson, and pasted up in the hall of the Castle; but all are now perished, or removed. At a small distance eastward, is a *platform* of twelve nine pounders.

POOLE.

A TOWN and county of itself, derives its name from the bay, or pool, on the north side of which it is situated. It stands on a peninsula, connected by a narrow isthmus with the main land. Being on the borders of a wide, desolate heath, and on an unsheltered shore, it has a dreary and bleak appearance. The peninsula is three quarters of a mile long, and half a mile broad; and within that compass are three or four considerable streets, running nearly north-east and south-west, mostly composed of mean and irregular buildings, and a cross street parallel with the quay, at the east end of which stands a Custom House; this being the most considerable port in the county. The town dues, or petty customs, for goods landed, or taken out of the vessels moored to the quay, are claimed by the Corporation; and it appears that the customs within one year have amounted to nearly 10,000l. The fortifications

Digitized by Google

fortifications are very insignificant: the sea formerly came up to the town, but has now retired several paces: the fortifications, however, inconsiderable as they were, Charles the Second caused to be dismantled, as a mark of ignominy for the obstinacy of the townsmen against his father's interests. In 1745 the ditch was dug, and an entrenchment thrown up; the remains of this latter are still apparent. Poole, previous to, and long after, the Conquest, formed a part of the manor of Canford, and being a parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, belonged to the *Long-espes*, the *Plantagenets*, the *Lacys*, and the *Montacutes;* the last of whom leaving an only daughter, married to Neville, Earl of Westmoreland, this manor, as part of the earldom of Salisbury, devolved to him. Upon his defection from Henry the Sixth, and joining the York party, his estates were seized by the Crown; and from the fourteenth of Henry the Sixth to the reign of Charles the First, it was granted severally to George, Duke of Clarence, and to Edward, Earl of Warwick. Henry the Eighth gave it to his natural son, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond and Somerset. It was afterwards granted by the same Monarch to Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter, and his wife. On his attainder, the manor again reverted to the Crown. Charles the First granted it to the *Webb* family, whose representative, Sir John Webb, Bart. is the present possessor. When Poole was made a town and county in itself by Queen Elizabeth, the manor was severed from that of Canford; yet it has been determined that the Lord of Canford has a right to hold a court in Poole once a year; and it still pays the ancient fee-farms to the Lord of that Manor.

The borough of Poole is very ancient, as appears from William Long-espe granting a number of privileges to the *Burgesses* both by land and by sea, on payment of seventy marks. His charter was confirmed by William Montacute, who changed the office denominated, in the former charter, *Præpositus*, into *Mayor*. Other liberties were afterwards given and confirmed to the town by different Monarchs; but for its most considerable privileges, Poole is indebted to Elizabeth. This Sovereign incorporated and made it a free town, and, after adding other immunities, directed it to be

Digitized by Google

be formed into a distinct county, and to appoint its own Sheriff, &c. in the same manner as the town and county of Southampton.

The government of Poole is vested in a Mayor, four Aldermen, and twenty-eight Burgesses. The Mayor, who is chosen from among the Burgesses, is always a Justice of Peace; and when his year expires, commences Alderman, and is generally Senior Bailiff and Justice of the Peace for the ensuing year. He is Admiral within the liberties, and was anciently Mayor of the Staple. The Burgesses are chosen by the Mayor. This borough was represented in Parliament from the fourteenth to the forty-second of Edward the Third: it then intermitted sending till the thirty-first of Henry the Sixth. The right of election is possessed by the Burgesses, whether resident or otherwise. The number of voters is ninety-six. The Sheriff and Water Bailiff are annually elected from among the Burgesses, and the subordinate officers at the usual times. A quarter session is held for the town by the Mayor and Justices: and should any criminal or civil cause remain to be tried, the Judge, on the circuit, comes hither in his way to Dorchester. Civil causes are, however, generally tried at the latter town, or at Winchester.

Leland attributes the rise of this town to "the Danes warres," which "sore rased Wareham;" yet it does not appear to have attained any particular consequence till the time of Edward the Third, when the port became more frequented; and at the siege of Calais, furnished the King with four ships, and ninety-four men. From this period till the reign of Henry the Sixth, it experienced many vicissitudes; but about that time was "well inhabited." His successors, Edward the Fourth, and Richard the Third, granted it several privileges.

On the 12th of October, in the year 1483, Henry, Earl of Richmond, in his first expedition from St. Malo's, was driven near this place by a storm. Richard the Third, willing to get Richmond into his power, ordered signals to be made, encouraging him to land, though the shore was lined with soldiers; but the Earl receiving an ambiguous answer to a message which he sent, doubted the faith of the proposal offered, and immediately sailed back

Digitized by Google

back to France. In Leland's time, Poole had decreased to "a poor fischar village;" but it soon afterwards became more flourishing, and is now one of the most considerable towns in the county. Its population, according to the late returns, amounted to 4761; and the number of houses to 1059.

The Church was anciently a Chapel of ease to Canford; but is now parochial. It is an ancient fabric, consisting of a body, two aisles, and a tower. Within it is a monument to the memory of Mr. Peter Joliffe, who, with only two others, took a privateer; for which he was rewarded by William the Third with a gold medal and a commission. The altar-piece is elegantly constructed of mahogany. In the town are several meeting-houses for Presbyterians, Quakers, and Anabaptists.

The principal buildings, besides the Church, are the Market-House, the Town-Hall, and the Wool-House. The *Market-House* was rebuilt in 1761. On the front is an inscription, implying, that it was erected at the joint expence of Joseph Gulston, Jun. Esq. in grateful memory of his father Joseph Gulston, Sen. Esq. being chosen that year fourth time member for the town and county; and by Lieutenant Colonel Calcraft, the other representative. The *Town-Hall* is in Fish Street, built anno 1572: under it is the prison. There are also several schools, and a flourishing Sunday School, established by means of the perseverance and liberality of W. Morton Pitt, Esq. then one of the representatives. The great Cellar, King's Hall, or *Wool-House*, is an edifice of some antiquity, but has lately been partly rebuilt. Adjoining to this is the Town-House, erected 1727, by a company of merchants.

Poole Bay unites with the British Channel by a narrow entrance on the east. Leland states it to be twenty miles in circumference, but this is certainly inaccurate; for, when all the windings of the shore, and the projections of the mud-banks, are properly traced, it will be found that its compass exceeds sixty miles. Horsley seems to place the *Magnus Portus* of Ptolemy here; but Richard of Cirencester's calculation, which removes that station to Porchester, seems more just; especially as Camden, and other eminent antiquaries, coincide with him in opinion. This Bay contains several

ral Islands, and is full of mud-banks, intersected by many channels, which admit the passage of boats, and other small vessels. A scheme was formerly projected, to embank, inclose, and recover these banks; but the execution of it was, however, found to be impracticable. Though the town claims much dominion in this Bay,* the Lord of Corfe Castle has a power and jurisdiction, as Admiral by Water and Land on the Seas round the Isle of Purbeck, on the high seas, and throughout the whole Island, in pursuance of a grant by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Christopher Hatton. The fishermen of Wareham, upon paying a small fine to the Lord of Corfe Castle, have a right also to fish in these waters. A considerable *Oyster Fishery* is carried on here, which supplies the London markets for two months every season; and no less than forty sloops and boats are employed in this traffic, during which time the receipts are between six and seven thousand pounds. The last day's catching, by a prescriptive regulation, is thrown into the channels in the harbour, where the oysters are left to fatten, and supply the town and neighbouring country during the winter. Other fish are caught in great plenty, and the harbour plaice are most excellent. "Herrings have also been caught in such plenty, as to be sold for a penny a dozen, and continued on that coast for three months."†

In digging a dock at Ham, opposite the harbour, in the year 1747, a large bed of oyster shells was found, six feet and a half thick, regularly piled up. This bed had been formed by the fishermen, who deposited the shells after they had taken out the fish for pickling, &c. without breaking the ligatures; this was the

* A case of ejectment decided, however, in 1798, in favor of Sir John Webb, is of the greatest importance to Poole; for by this decision his manor is said to extend into the town as far as low-water mark. The injury this may occasion to individuals, who have erected wharfs, warehouses, &c. for time immemorial, without any manorial acknowledgment, may probably affect also the trade and commerce of the town itself: many persons having considered themselves at full liberty to erect buildings for their private use at a vast expence, are now held liable to pay heavy rents, and other acknowledgments.

† Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 16, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

the custom in the seventeenth century, which, in 1640, and 1670, induced the Corporation, who imagined that such incumbrances might injure the channel, to cause the fishermen to open their oysters in the boats, and throw the shells on the strand, by which that hill of shells was raised, which at high water is surrounded by the sea, and called *Oyster Bank*.

*Poole Harbour** extends about four miles from North Haven to Redclyffe Attwell, on the Purbeck shore. The depth of water is sufficient for any ship not exceeding fourteen feet draft. The trade is chiefly confined to Newfoundland; and a number of young seamen are trained up in this fishery. The exports are provision, nets, cordage, sail-cloth, and all sorts of wearing apparel; with a variety of commodities for plantation consumption. The returns are cod and salmon, afterwards sent to foreign markets, oil, seal-skins, firs, and, lately, cranberries: and so much had commerce increased, that, before the American War, one capital house here had no less than twenty-four sail of square-rigged vessels, from 100 to 300 tons burthen, employed in the Newfoundland trade. The number of ships now belonging to the port is about 230; amounting in the whole, to upwards of 121,000 tons burthen: nearly 140 of these vessels are employed in foreign commerce. The imports and exports of corn are very considerable; the central situation of Poole from the foreign northern ports, as well as from Holland, rendering it extremely convenient for this trade. The granaries are airy and spacious. The Court of Admiralty belonging to the port was formerly kept on the quay, or over the passage, at a place called Brome Hill; and its records are extant from

* In this harbour "the sea ebbs and flows four times in twenty-four hours; twice when the moon is at south-east and north-west, and twice when she is at south by east, and north by west. Two of these tides seem to be occasioned by the Isle of Brownsea, which obstructing the water as it runs towards the mouth of the harbour, causes it to flow back again; this is the second flood. In the harbour the ebb and flood appear alternately every six hours. The ebb at low-water, between the coast of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, runs so strong, that it shoots into Poole harbour, (which lies in the line of its course;) so that when it is low water at Hurst Castle, it is high water here." *Maton's Observations on the Western Counties.*

Digitized by Google

from the time of Edward the Sixth. The Mayor is president; and there is a Jury impanelled to judge of causes within the jurisdiction. Formerly this Court was held annually; but is now at pleasure.

Poole has given birth to the following eminent characters. ROBERT ROGERS, Leather-Seller, of London, who left vast sums for charitable uses in London, Oxford, Cambridge, and this town. JOHN LEWIS, M. A. Divine and Antiquary, and author of several valuable publications. WILLIAM THOMPSON, master of a small hoy. In 1695, on the thirtieth of May, with one man and a boy, having only two guns, and some small arms, he took a French privateer of Cherburg, having on board sixteen men, two patereroes, &c. after wounding the captain, lieutenant, and six men, and having eight sound men when she surrendered, after two hours engagement. For this brave exploit the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty gave him the sloop he had taken, and a medal and chain, of the value of 50l. The late SIR PETER THOMPSON, Knt. F. R. and A. S. S. was also born here. He was a considerable antiquary, and made ample collections for the history of this town and neighbourhood. These manuscripts are now in the hands of Captain Peter Thompson, of the Surry militia.

KINGSTON HALL, the seat of Henry Bankes, Esq. Member of Parliament for the borough of Corfe Castle, stands upon a gentle ascent, between two and three miles north-west from Wimborne Minster. It is a large substantial building of brick, with stone architraves to the doors and windows, and stone coins; it was erected about the year 1663. The rooms are spacious and elegant, and contain a valuable collection of paintings, particularly some remarkably fine portraits by Vandyke, Lely, and Sir Godfrey Kneller, and a very large and most capital landscape by Berghem, with the name and date, 1635.

It was to an ancestor of the proprietor of this mansion that Sir Godfrey Kneller was first introduced on his arrival in England. This gentleman, with his family, he drew. The pictures pleased; and being seen by Mr. Vernon, Secretary to the Duke of Mon-

Digitized by Google

mouth, he and his master sat to the painter, and recommended him to the notice of the King.*

"At *Pamphill*, adjoining this seat, in the year 1736, a labourer, digging in the earth, accidentally struck his tool into a small Roman urn, and broke it to pieces: within it were about twenty small silver coins, of the Emperors Gallienus, Posthumus, and others; which coins, together with the fragments of the urn, were claimed by John Bankes, Esq. then Lord of the soil, as treasure-trove."

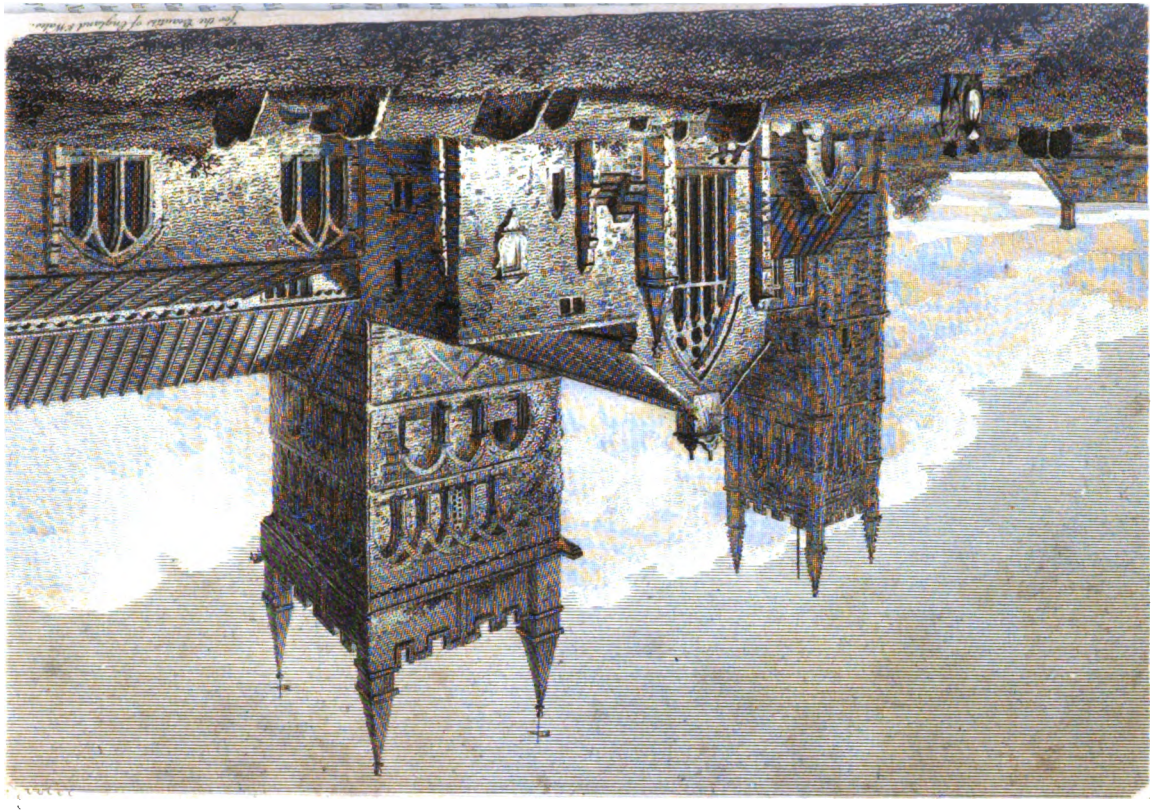
WIMBORNE MINSTER,

A TOWN of very high antiquity, and celebrated for its beautiful Collegiate Church, is situated on the river Allen, near its confluence with the Stour, on a dry gravelly soil, in one of the most delightful vales in the kingdom. It was called by the Romans, *Vindogladia*, or *Ventageladia;* alluding to its situation on a river; and is supposed to have formed a station to the camp at Badbury. The later appellation of Wimborne, or Wimbourne, is Saxon, being derived from *Bourne*, a brook or running water, and *Wim*, a little river which flows on the north and east sides of the town. The term Minster is added from the Church, to distinguish it from other places of the name of *Wimbourne*. This town is said, by Camden, to have been a place of much consequence in the Saxon times, and to have then retained many marks of *Roman* magnificence; though a late writer has contended, that the *Vindogladia* of the Itinerary, assigned by Camden as the situation of the present Wimborne, was situated at Badbury.

Old historians, however, agree in their accounts with that great topographer, as far as respects its importance under our Saxon ancestors, and add, that it was likewise well fortified during that period, being the scene of several contests between Edward the Elder and Ethelwald, his cousin-german, who sought to usurp the throne. Here Ethelwald left his wife, whom he had taken out of the Nunnery at Wimborne, and retiring into Normandy, soon afterwards invaded Essex and Mercia with an army of Danes; but

* Walpole's Anecdotes of Painters, Vol. III. p. 110.

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

but being overtaken by Edward, his forces were completely routed, and himself slain.

It is most certain that the town of Wimborne is much more remarkable for what it was formerly, than for what it now is; for, notwithstanding some recent improvements, it has little to boast either of the cleanliness or regularity of its streets, or of the neatness and uniformity of its buildings. It has very little trade, and it labors lamentably under a want of police, which is apparent in the neglected state of many of the streets. What little trade it has, consists chiefly in the woollen manufacture, and the knitting of hosiery. These defects, however, are in some degree counterbalanced by many local advantages; the town is rather large and populous, the air is good, and the soil and situation are healthy and pleasant; it is well watered, and the prospect around is extensive and delightful. The great object from which Wimborne derived its ancient reputation, and to which solely it is indebted for its modern celebrity, is the NUNNERY. This foundation was among the earliest of its kind in the kingdom; it was erected, as Leland tells us, by St. Cuthburga, daughter of Kenred, and sister of Ina, Kings of the West Saxons, who was divorced from her husband Egfrid, in order that she might dedicate herself to religious exercises. This event, and the building of the Monastery, took place sometime between the years 705 and 723. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, or some of his predecessors of the name of Edward, this Nunnery, having been destroyed by the Danes, was dissolved, and the house converted into a College of secular Canons, said to have consisted of a Dean, four Prebendaries, three Vicars, four Deacons, or Secondaries, and five Singing-men.

The Deanery, with the College, and all its Chantries and Chapels, was dissolved in 1547. It had been valued in the twenty-sixth of the reign of Henry the Eighth, at 131l. 14s. On the Dissolution its revenues were vested in the Crown. Most of the lands belonging to it were granted to Edward Duke of Somerset, and afterwards to Edward Lord Clinton. Part of the remaining revenues, in the possession of the Crown, were afterwards granted by Elizabeth, and vested in the Corporation of the College, towards

Digitized by Google

the foundation of the *Grammar-School;* reserving to herself, however, a certain annual rent. This rent was released by her successor, James. In the succeeding reign, through the interference of Laud, the Corporation surrendered their charter into the King's hands, who, in consideration of 1000l. re-granted all the tythes, possessions, lands, &c. belonging to the Church and School, into the hands of twelve Governors, who, besides other conditions, were to find for the service of the Collegiate Church, three Priests or Ministers, three Clerks, four Choristers, two Singing-men, and an Organist. This establishment, with some temporary obstructions, has been kept up ever since. The revenues at present amount to between 300l and 400l.

The CHURCH is a structure deserving of particular notice, no less on account of its age and venerable appearance, than for several peculiarities in its style and architecture. Its *form*, says Gilpin, dates its *antiquity*, being of the heaviest and earliest species of Saxon architecture. Dr. Stukeley, however, was of opinion, (in which other antiquaries concur,) that the eastern tower, and most part of the Church, was built soon after the Conquest. Many parts are apparently of the Saxon age, particularly the semicircular arches on the eastern tower, the false windows in the south transept, and several others.* This edifice is built in the form

* "A curious mixture of the Saxon and Gothic orders is observable through the whole of this building; and those who imagine the latter to have sprung out of the former, may certainly here find some confirmation of their conjectures. The interlaced Saxon arches adorning the outside of the eastern tower being perforated in several places under the points of intersection, *absolutely* constitute *Gothic* windows. In the inside, large pointed arches may be seen sweeping round, and enclosing a row of small circular ones. The arches of the nave are pointed, but have Saxon mouldings, and the pillars are massy; the windows above these are very obtuse, and would on that account seem to be of a modern date, in comparison with the rest of the Church. For my own part, I cannot hesitate to acknowledge, that I have always thought a transition from the Saxon into the *Gothic* style, extremely easy; and the reasons on which I have founded my belief, that the one actually passed into the other, are the result of a diligent study of many different structures in this kingdom. *It is* very natural to imagine that several of the peculiarities by which the various orders

Digitized by Google

form of a cross, with two quadrangular towers; one of them standing on the middle of the roof, and the other at the west end. The former was adorned anciently with a spire, said to have been of an extraordinary height. The whole building is divided in the manner of a Cathedral, and consists of a chancel, nave, choir, and side aisles, a transept, or cross aisle, and three porches. Its length, from east to west, is 180 feet. The ascent to the chancel is by a flight of twelve steps, in two divisions, six to the stalls, and six to the chancel, which give it a very noble and grand appearance. Both chancel and choir are supported by eight pillars, over which are five windows on the north, all open; and only three on the south side, but all much smaller than those of the nave. The choir has seven stalls on each side, besides two at the upper end; the whole covered with canopies of carved oak. On the south side of the altar are four large niches, or stalls, handsomely purfled; one of which has a holy-water bason on a pillar; and at the west end is a handsome organ. The length of the choir and chancel is upwards of twenty-one feet. The nave is supported on each side by six massy pillars, of an irregular form; above which are pointed arches, with zig-zag mouldings; the whole en-

 lightened

orders are characterized, owe their origin to chance, and sudden conceits of workmen. The perforations which occur in the Church belonging to the Hospital of St. Cross, near Winchester, must have given an idea of a new and elegant kind of arch, whether the Gothic was then known as a separate order or not; and it is very improbable that its effect should escape the eye of an architect. But supposing the Gothic arch to be wholly unconnected with the Saxon in its origin, and introduced from a distant country, how happened it to spread in England by piecemeal only? The commencement of the pure absolute Gothic is usually fixed at about the end of the thirteenth century. If this part of its history be correct, the mixed style must have prevailed nearly 100 years; for we find no edifices in the uncorrupted Saxon after the year 1200. Long after the reign of Henry the Third, there still remained in the Gothic order, what I cannot help considering as memorials of its origin; detached shafts supporting the arches of windows, which evidently correspond with the appendages to the interlaced circular arches on the towers of Wimborne Minster, and the Church of the Hospital of St. Cross. The idea of the three compartments in the Gothic window may likewise be derived from the same quarter." *Malon's Western Counties, Vol. II. p.* 192.

Digitized by Google

lightened by a similar number of windows, apparently of a much later fashion.

In this Church numerous royal and noble personages have been buried, most of whom were anciently commemorated by suitable monuments. Of these many are destroyed by time, and more by the hand of violence: enough remains, however, to gratify in a considerable degree the inquisitive mind. The first tomb in consequence, and most visited, is that of KING ETHELRED, situated on the north side of the altar. It consists of a brass plate, on which is engraved the effigies of a King, three quarters length, in Royal robes, with a crown on his head, and a sceptre in his hand, and the following inscription underneath:

S. ETHELREDI REGIS WEST SAXONUM
MARTYRIS, QUI ANNO DOMINI DCCCLXXII. XXIII
APRILIS PERMANIS DANORUM PAGANORUM
OCCUBIT.

This excellent Prince (brother to Alfred the Great) engaged in his early youth in all the toils and perplexities of government. The times were adverse. His country was over-run by the Danes. He encountered them in battle, and was mortally wounded. Mr. Gilpin observes, that the effigies of Ethelred, though but of miserable workmanship, is better than we can suppose the times of Alfred could produce, and must, no doubt, have been frequently repaired, if of that date; but Leland puts this matter beyond a doubt, by expressly mentioning, that King Ethelred's "tumbe was *lately* repaired, and a marble stone there layid with an image of a King in a plate of brasse:" to which he subjoins the inscription above mentioned. Mr. Gough likewise proves, that Roman capitals were not adopted till nearly the period of the Reformation. We may therefore conclude the present monument to be of no very remote antiquity.

The DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SOMERSET (the *parents* of Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry the Seventh) lie nearly opposite, on the south side of the choir, under an arch, on an altar-tomb of grey marble, with five quatrefoils parted by

Digitized by Google

niches. Their effigies are of alabaster, curiously carved, each holding the hand of the other. The Duke is dressed in a very rich and singular suit of armour, a pointed helmet, encircled by a coronet, a collar of S S round his neck, a dagger on his right side, and a sword at his left, of which there now only remains the hilt, inscribed, i h s. A garter is on his knee: his head is supported by two angels, and his feet by a lion: his left-hand holds his gauntlet on his breast; his right clasps that of the Duchess, who is dressed in a straight garment, with a veil and collar of S S, her robes of state, and a coronet on her head, which is also supported by two angels, as her feet are by an antelope: in her left-hand is a string of beads, a ring on her fore-finger, two on the second, and two on the third. The inscription is supposed to have been torn off in the Civil Wars, when this monument, as well as many others, and the Church itself, were much damaged.

On the opposite side is an altar-tomb of grey marble, nearly similar, but without any figure, erected to the memory of GERTRUDE, Marchioness of Exeter, mother of the accomplished but unfortunate Edward Courtenay, the last Earl of Devonshire. On the brass plates which still remain, and which formerly went quite round the verge, is this imperfect inscription:

—... ——— Conjux quondam Henrici Courteney
Marchionis Exon, et mater Edwardi
Courteney nuper Ao.——— ...

This lady's tomb was opened a few years since, when the body was found wrapped up in cere-cloth; but, through an idle attempt of some persons present to place it in an erect posture, the back-bone was broken, and all the other parts tumbled to pieces: by this imprudent action the tomb itself has likewise received considerable damage.

The following epitaph, placed by Mrs. Anne Russell as a pious and grateful tribute to the best of mothers, merits transcription.

Digitized by Google

Farewell, blest shade! from earth to Heav'n remov'd,
In death lamented, and in life belov'd!
Oh! if to bear a mild, a generous heart;
To act the kindest, yet the firmest part;
To fill each scene with decency and ease;
In conscious merit ever sure to please;
Prompt to relieve, and to prevent distress,
Feeling no greater blessing than to bless;
To be whate'er or cheers, or softens life,
The tender parent, sister, friend, and wife.
If, reader, these can claim a general tear,
Approach—and pay the mournful tribute here.

The aisles, particularly the south one, is distinguished for a variety of handsome monuments. One to the memory of Sir Edmund Uvedale, dated 1606, has much merit, and the workmanship would not disgrace a happier period. The figure of the Knight is represented reclining on one hand; the execution of the armour and belt deserves particular notice. At a small distance is a wooden coffin, painted with a variety of bearings, clamped with iron, and bearing the date of 1703. This coffin contains the remains of an eccentric old gentleman, of the name of Ettricke,* and is said to have been placed here by his heirs, because in his life-time, being offended with the inhabitants of Wimborne, he had made many solemn protestations, that he would never be buried either in their Church or Church-Yard. This person, of whom several *whims* are recorded, is said to have been bred to the law, and to have grown, towards the close of his life, very humorsome, phlegmatic, and credulous; an instance of which is recorded respecting his death. He was fully persuaded for some years, that he should die in 1691, and accordingly procured this tomb to be made, and had that date cut thereon, as may be plainly seen, the same being altered to 1703, in which year he died, and was buried.

At the end of the north aisle is the figure of a Knight, armed in mail, and cross-legged; but the person to whose memory it was erected

* An eminent Antiquary, who communicated the Additions to this County in Gibson's *Britannia*.

Digitized by Google

erected is unknown. Adjoining to it is the tomb of a Mr. Collet, a great benefactor to the poor, with a large chest placed on it, containing the writings relative to his various charities. Several ancient tomb-stones, inscribed with the figure of a cross, have been removed from the Church, and remain in places contiguous. "Descending a flight of eight steps from this aisle, you come to a Chapel directly under the area of the chancel, commonly called the *Dungeon*. It is neatly arched over head, and supported in the middle by four strong regular pillars, and twelve small circular ones on the sides, with stone seats round the walls, and a piscina. This Chapel was formerly adorned with an organ, and, with the images of the Virgin Mary, and other Saints, finely painted and gilt; as also a handsome pavement of mosaic work, now quite broken to pieces." The crypt underneath the choir has pointed arches, with bold circular groins, to support the roof, and was formerly used as a chantry; the cavity cut for containing holy water still remains.

Within this Church was once standing no fewer than ten altars for the celebration of divine service, all of which were composed of alabaster, and other costly materials, and suitably garnished with plate and ornaments. Most of these had pictures or images of their patron Saints; some of them of silver. But the furniture of the high altar was particularly splendid and costly, and consisted of, first, one great cross of silver gilt. Two other crosses, with the images, of silver. A foot, and a staff, of copper gilt. A cross of silver, plated, and the image of copper, gilt. Four large candlesticks; two censors; a ship, or frankincense boat; a verger's rod, six cruets, three paxes, an oil vat, two chalices, two basons, twenty-four corporasses, and other vessels, of solid silver, or silver gilt. Besides these, were an image of St. Cuthburga, the patroness and foundress, with a ring of gold, and two little crosses of gold, with a book and staff in her hand. The head of the image of silver, with a crown of silver gilt. A cross, in a case plated with gold; and two hearts of gold pendant, or hanging in chains. Two tabernacles of our Lady; one of gold, with pearls on it; the other of silver gilt; a crucifix, and two Agnus Dei's, of

Digitized by Google

gold; with a great variety of strings of beads, and other things of value. Its relics were in no-wise inferior to its riches. Saints, Virgins, Apostles, Martyrs, and Confessors, all contributed their quota, to the amount of fifty and upwards. The most sacred were, a piece of the real cross; part of our Lord's robe, and some of the hairs of his beard, together with a piece of his manger, and one of the thorns from his crown. Several relics of St. Thomas à Becket, with a part of his blood; part of the *thigh* of the blessed Virgin Agatha, and numerous others.* In the bell-tower of this Church are some bells of a very great age, whose tone is remarkable for clearness and strength. On the outside is a figure, that strikes the hour with a hammer, somewhat similar to the two figures at St. Dunstan's, in London.

The glory of Wimborne Minster centres in its Church. The other public buildings are few, and uninteresting. The Town-Hall was suffered to fall to decay; and near its site is an open space, called the Square. The College, or Grammar-School, has been mentioned. Here are two Meeting-Houses, for the different sects of Presbyterians and Anabaptists; and a large commodious Poor-House. The town has been long styled a borough, but was never incorporated. It is governed by two Bailiffs. The houses were enumerated under the late act at 673; and the inhabitants at 3039.

About a quarter of a mile from the town stands an *Hospital*, or *Alms-House*, with a small Chapel adjoining, called St. Margaret's Hospital. The time of its foundation is entirely *unknown*. It has been asserted, that John of Gaunt was the founder; but by many curious deeds and evidences preserved in a chest *in the Chapel*, it appears to be at least as old as the time of King John, at which period it was set apart for the relief and support of poor persons afflicted with the leprosy,† who being cut off from the society

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 558.

† It may not be impertinent to observe, that the leprosy, to which so many foundations were set apart by our ancestors, and of which we *now hear so* little, is mentioned by most authors to have been brought from Egypt, and to how

Digitized by Google

society of mankind by that loathsome disease, were not permitted even to ask alms, unless by a procurator appointed for that purpose. It does not appear, by any of the before-mentioned papers relating to this Hospital, what number of persons were of old maintained therein, or whether it had any real endowment. There is most reason to suppose, that it subsisted solely by charitable donations, from the tenor of a deed dated in the tenth year of Henry the Eighth, which recites, that Pope Innocent the Fourth, in the year 1245, by "an indulgans or bulle, did assoyl them (i. e. all who contributed) of all syns forgotten, and offences done against fader and moder, and of all swerynges neglygently made. This indulgans grantyd of Petyr and Powle, and of the said Pope, was to hold good for fifty-one years and 260 days, provided they repeated a certain specified number of pater-nosters and ave-marias daily." In those early ages, a chantry was founded in this Chapel by a John Redcoddes, of one Priest, to pray for his soul, which at the Dissolution was valued at 5l. 13s. 4d. The Hospital continued from the latter period till about the year 1683, to be under the direction and government of two of the most substantial inhabitants of the parish annually chosen, assisted by the Constable of the Town, the Stewards of the Manor, &c. Since that time the receipt and management of the revenues, which have been augmented by several benefactions, have been wholly under the care of the Stewards of the Manor of Kingston Lacy, the Lord of which Manor now nominates the alms-people, who are no longer required to have the original qualification, but are simply poor aged people. Its revenues, as stated in the return to Parliament in the year 1786, are 35l. 11s.

At

have spread so violently in the tenth and eleventh centuries, that no less than 15,000 Hospitals were erected throughout Christendom, for the purpose of maintaining and relieving such poor persons as laboured under that afflicting malady. Within the two succeeding centuries, however, its violence had so far decreased, that the revenues of these Hospitals were frequently abused; and people feigned themselves to be lepers, to be intitled to the benefit of the provisions, which occasioned their regulation in some countries, their entire suppression in others, and here in England, their being converted to other purposes.

Digitized by Google

At the east end of Wimborne stands a second Hospital, or Alms-House, founded by Gertrude Courtenay, Marchioness of Exeter, before mentioned, about the year 1557, and endowed with the Manor and Lordship of Canford. Her will directs her executor, Blount, Lord Mountjoy, or his heirs, to cause, within two years after her decease, to be built, "six several houses within the parish of Wimborne, for six several poor men and women there to dwell, and to be maintained for ever. And such Hospital, or Alms-House, when built, to be called *The Hospital, or Alms-House, of Gertrude, Marchioness of Exeter.*" A patent was accordingly procured in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, by which a Governor, and the requisite number of persons, were appointed and incorporated, by the names of the "Governor and Master, and Poor Persons, of the Hospital of Gertrude, Marchioness of Exeter." They were at the same time invested with certain coporate privileges, such as having a common seal, purchasing lands, &c. but, notwithstanding this parade, the charity has dwindled to a mere nothing. The six persons at present on the foundation, have each a room, and the poor pittance of fifty-two shillings yearly, paid them by the Lord of the Manor.

Wimborne Minster lays claim to the honor of giving birth to the celebrated poet MATTHEW PRIOR; though he appears to have concealed the place, as well as the circumstances, of his descent so cautiously, from the meanness of the latter, as is surmised, that the fact is not determined with certainty. In the register of his College, he is called, at his admission, by the President, *Matthew Prior, of Winburn in Middlesex;* by himself next day, *Matthew Prior, of Dorsetshire.* Five years afterwards, when he was candidate for his fellowship, he was registered again, by himself, as of *Middlesex.* In his posthumous works, he is said to have been the son of a reputable citizen in London, and to have been born there in 1664. In so many contradictory accounts, it is difficult to arrive at the truth. On weighing the several circumstances, however, which have transpired, the evidence of his being born in this county seems to preponderate.

"About

Digitized by Google

"About the year 1727, one Prior, of Godmanston, a laboring man, and living in 1755, declared to a company of gentlemen where Mr. Hutchins was present, that he was Mr. Prior's cousin, and remembered his going to Wimbourne to visit him, and afterwards heard he became a great man. The learned Thomas Baker, B. D. once Fellow of the same College with Prior, informed Mr. Browne Willis, that he was born here of mean parents, to conceal which, he entered himself at College, of Winborne, county of Middlesex.*

"The late Mr. Nicholas Russel, a person of an inquisitive turn, and of great veracity, frequently assured me, that he very well remembered an old woman of Wimborne, a Dissenter, and a near relation of Matthew Prior, but who wrote her name *Price*, not *Prior*, and insisted that the former was the right name of the family; though her cousin, for what reason she knew not, unless it was to hide the meanness of his parentage, had thought fit to alter it to the latter."†

Tradition says that he was educated at the Grammar School in this town. His name does not occur in the parochial register, his parents being supposed to have been Dissenters, which he intimates in his Epistle to Fleetwood Shepherd, Esq.

> "So at the barn of loud Non. Con.'
> Where with my grannam I have gone."

It has been suggested, as a reason for Prior's signing himself of two places, independent of the above, that, the statutes of the College of which he was a member, forbade more than two persons of any particular county to be admitted as Fellows; that probably the two Dorsetshire fellowships were filled up, and that finding on that account he could not succeed, he adopted the expedient of entering himself of Middlesex. The following anecdote of this excellent poet is related in Nichol's Select Collection of Miscellaneous Poems:

"At

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 579, 2d Edit.

† Gent. Mag. Vol. LXI. p. 802.

Digitized by Google

"At Lord Oxford's seat at Wimpole (now Lord Hardwicke's) there hung a fine picture of Harley in his Speaker's robes, with the roll of the bill for bringing in the present family; which, if I mistake not, was done by his casting vote. In allusion to Harley's being sent to the Tower, Prior wrote with a pencil on the white scroll, *Bill paid such a day.*"*

A very extraordinary person, of the name of ROGER GILL, Shoemaker, and native of Wimborne, and one of the singing men belonging to the Church, died here in 1767, aged about 67. This person was remarkable for chewing his meat or cud twice over, like a sheep or ox. "Being examined in 1765, when he was sixty-four years old, he said, he seldom made any breakfast in his latter days. He generally dined about twelve or one o'clock, eat pretty heartily, and quickly, without much chewing or mastication. He never drank with his dinner, but sometime afterwards, about a pint of such malt liquor as he could procure. He had an aversion to all kinds of spirituous liquors; nor did he ever taste them in any shape, except a little punch, and was never fond of that. He eat but little butter; pease, pancakes, and fresh-water fish, he could not touch, except a little bit of broiled eel; they all returning greasy into his throat. He eat all garden-stuff, except carrots. He usually began his second chewing about a quarter or half an hour, sometimes later, after dinner, when every morsel came up successively sweeter and sweeter to the taste. Sometimes a morsel would prove offensive and crude; in which case he spit it out. The chewing continued about an hour or more; and sometimes would leave him a little while, in which case he would be sick at stomach, troubled with the heart-burn, loss of appetite, foul breath, &c. Smoking tobacco would sometimes stop his chewing, but was not attended with any ill consequence. About four months before he died, this faculty of chewing entirely forsook him, and the poor man remained in great agonies till the time of his death. He was some years ago examined, as to his case, by Dr. Archer, of Dorchester, and three other persons, to whom he produced a morsel

* For additional particulars of this Poet, see Vol. II. p. 73.

Digitized by Google

a morsel of beef and cabbage, which stuck in his mouth while he was talking to them about it."*

Nearly two miles north-west from Kingston-Hall, in the parish of Shapwicke, is the celebrated encampment called BADBURY RINGS, which occupies the summit of a considerable eminence, and commands a view over a great extent of country. This camp is of a circular form, with treble ramparts and ditches; having two entrances, one on the north-east, and another on the west side. The inclosed area measures eighteen acres and 102 statute perches in length, and about sixteen acres and a half in breadth; the circumference of the outer rampart is nearly a mile, or 1738 yards.

Several opinions have been entertained with respect to the origin of this entrenchment. It has been most generally ascribed to the Romans; but Camden supposes it a Saxon work. The sentiments of Mr. King differ from both; and he endeavors to prove it British: his description is as follows. "Somewhat similar to Old Sarum is the hill called *Badbury Rings*, about three miles and a half from Wimborne, Dorsetshire. It has passed with many for a Roman camp, because Roman urns and coins, and a Roman sword, have been dug up here in 1665; and it has been by others denominated Saxon, from the authority of Leland, who, speaking of Winburne, says, 'the Saxon Kings had hard by the toune a castelle, now caullid Badbyry, but clerely down. The diches, hills, and site thereof, be yet evidently seen. Now conyes borough in it.'

"It is remarkable that he adds the words Coneys borough, which name is well known to denote a *Royal residence*.† But though the Romans might unquestionably make this a station, as they unquestionably did make the same use of several other British posts, and though, from the advantage of its situation, the early

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 580, ad Edit.

† Mr. King here evidently mistakes the meaning of Leland, or wrests his words to support his own opinion. The circumstance of rabbits or conies boroughing in the ruins, can never be brought in as a proper name of the place; and if it could, it would certainly rather signify a *rabbit's* residence than a *royal* one.

Digitized by Google

early Saxon Kings might afterwards reside here, as its name, *Conenborough*, certainly imports, as well as its late name of *Kingston Lacy*, found in certain writings, as Leland tells us; yet its form, so unlike any thing that either Romans or Saxons ever constructed, shews it to have been originally truly *British*. And it is very remarkable, that another similar British post in Dorsetshire is seen from its summit; that a chain of such hill fortresses, within sight of each other, runs quite through the county; and that it stands on the very same Roman road that old Sarum does, the *Via Iceniana*; a road which probably was made to pass in this very direction, on account of the great strength of these two prior and most ancient British strong holds." This opinion of Badbury Rings being a British fortress, is probably correct; though it is certain, that it must have been afterwards occupied by the Romans, from the various coins, and other antiquities, of that people, which have been found here. That it was known to the Saxons, is evident from the circumstance of Edward the Elder resting his army here when on the march to punish Ethelward, his rebellious kinsman, who had seized Wimborne.

At *Tarent Crawford*, a small village between two and three miles to the north of Badbury Rings, was formerly a Nunnery of the Cistercian order, said to have been founded by Ralph, son of Ralph de Kahaines, who came over with the Conqueror, and who, about the time of Richard the First, built near his mansion a small Monastery, which he endowed (among other gifts) with the tythe of all the bread, (the King's bread excepted,) salt pork, and cattle, consumed in his family. The celebrated Bishop Poor, the founder of Salisbury Cathedral, re-edified this structure about 1230, and dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin and All Saints. He soon after presented it to Joan, Queen of Alexander the Second of Scotland, who chose it for the place of her burial. Its annual income, at the Dissolution, was valued at 214l. 7s. 9d. according to Dugdale; or 239l. 11s. 10d. as Speed. The site of this *Abbey*, with several of its possessions, were granted first to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and afterwards to Richard Savage and W. Strangeways. In 1641 this farm, valued at 200l. belonged to Sir William Portman,

Digitized by Google

man, Bart. Four years afterwards it was sequestered. A descendant of the latter gentleman is the present owner. There are not the smallest remains now to be discovered either of the Nunnery or Church; it appears to have been demolished immediately on the Dissolution, as may be gathered from Leland. "Tarent Nunnery, *of late days*, stoode about Crayford Bridge, over Stoure ryver, lower than Blanford." Mr. Coker observes, that nothing of the Monastery remained in his time. A large old barn, lately standing here, was supposed, from its style of building, to have been the Abbey Church. In this church were buried the heart of Bishop Poor, the original founder; the Kahaines, of Tarent, and their issue; Joan, wife of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, natural daughter of King John; Joan, Queen of Scots; and other noble persons.

At *More Critchell*, a small village, about five miles north from Wimborne Minster, is

MORE CRITCHELL, the noble seat of Charles Sturt,* Esq. a descendant, by the mother's side, from the family of the Napiers, a branch

* "In September, 1800, this gentleman, who had been a Lieutenant in the Navy, and was owner of a fast-sailing cutter, then stationed in Weymouth Bay, went out early in the morning; and, after dinner, being about two leagues from shore, made a match for his cutter to sail against that of Mr. Weld, of Lulworth Castle. When in the onset, Mr. Sturt's cutter having the boat fastened to her stern, he ordered a boy to get into her, and convey it to shore, as he supposed it retarded and impeded the sailing. The child (the sea running high) being afraid, Mr. Sturt requested any man on board; but they all declined the task; on which he jumped into the boat, when, just at that instant, the rope by which it was lashed, parted from the vessel, and he was, by the force of the tide, drifted to sea at a considerable distance, when the boat, by the surge, upset. In this perilous situation, left to the mercy of the waves, he had the presence of mind to pull off all his clothes, except his nankeen trowsers and stockings, keeping his station, as well as he could, sometimes on the keel of the boat, and then, dashed off by a tremendous wave, compelled to swim, and regain his former station. Giving up all for lost, previous to his throwing away his clothes, he wrote with a pencil, on a slip of paper, which he put into his watch-case, the following label: "Charles Sturt, Brownsea, to his beloved wife." The watch, in the case of which Mr. Sturt placed the label, was of the most elegant kind,

Digitized by Google

a branch of which was seated in Scotland. This Mansion has of late been very much enlarged. The Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Portico, Library, the common Dining Parlour, with the apartments over them, are all modern additions. The staircase is in the middle of the house, and lighted by an elegant glass dome. On the north side are the Stables and Offices, which inclose a large area, and form a distinct building. Before the house

is

kind, being enriched with diamonds, &c. and reported to be worth 300 guineas. It was a present to him from his lady. This he preserved by fastening it to his trowsers, the only covering he left himself. But here may be seen the all-protecting care of Divine Providence. Some transports, which were attended to carry the troops to Guernsey and Jersey, by contrary winds, put back: all had passed but the last vessel, unnoticing him, when one of the mates exclaimed, "Good God! there is a man in distress!" on which every friend and British heart was ready. The transports could not bring to, and they lay full three miles to the windward, and a heavy sea, when four resolute fellows embarked in the boat, the man only being occasionally visible, and followed the line in which they perceived him, and after near two hours they came up with him, as he was only to be seen within a few yards, now almost worn out, when they lifted him into the boat; in which he had no sooner arrived, than he grasped his kind deliverers, lifting his eyes to Providence, for their relief, and burst instantaneously into tears: thus the bold, the intrepid, in danger, never shrunk: yet, on his deliverance, sympathetic tears flowed from his eyes. After this let no man arraign the inscrutable eye of Providence. A few moments more, and a most valuable member would have been lost to society, it being nearly dark, with a heavy sea, when they took him up. It is equally in justice to his liberality, as well as his intrepidity, to mention, he has handsomely rewarded his brave protectors. What adds more to the illustration of his character is, he possesses an excellent fortune, which, with a liberal hand, and benevolent heart, is used to benefit society, and for public good. In February, 1799, by his intrepidity, he saved the lives of a ship's crew who would otherwise have perished. They were shipwrecked near his seat at Brownsea Castle, within a short distance of Poole, and clinging to the wreck. In this perilous situation he offered 100 guineas to any person who would attempt their deliverance. The sea then running high, and death appearing ingulphed in every wave, every one declined; when he, with an intrepidity unparalleled, *jumped* into his boat: this encouraged the rest; they ventured, and by these means the lives of those brave men were saved. The singularity of this event is, that he saved four sailors; and in his late preservation he was saved also by four sailors from the Middleton Transport." *Gent. Mag. Vol. LXX. p.* 892.

Digitized by Google

is a large sheet of water, so judiciously managed, as to have the effect of a fine broad river. This romantic seat has been twice occupied by the Prince of Wales. The village Church is a plain ancient edifice, with some modern alterations by Mr. Sturt. It contains a few curious monuments to the memory of the families of *Eyfrewast* and *Uvedale:* of the latter, particularly, a pedigree is preserved on a large mural tablet; and over a door of the aisle, their arms are emblazoned.

At HORTON, a village to the east, a small distance from the above, was an Abbey or Priory of Benedictines, founded by Orgar, Earl of Devonshire, whose daughter, the celebrated Elfrida, married King Edgar; or, according to some, by his son Ordulph. This Abbey, Leland says, "was sumtyme an hedde monasterie, a celle to Shirburne." It was early ruined, and not the smallest traces of it can now be ascertained with certainty. "In this parish, surrounding the site and ruins of an ancient Chapel and Chapel-yard, is a large and deep circular entrenchment, without any entrance; the area contains about an acre: it is quite distinct from the chapel-yard, which is easily distinguished from it, and is of an oblong figure, nearly approaching to a long square: the ditch is within: the turnpike road crosses it; and it is boldest in the semicircle on the west. On the south side four barrows surround it; one levelled, had four men: two remain in *Barrow Field.* In Wimborne St. Giles's Church-yard is another planted. In Knolton Field another, planted by Lord Shaftesbury; and one almost levelled: a raised one from the outer camp to the river points south. Badbury lies south-west. In levelling the south vallum, great quantities of human bones, with spear heads, and pieces of iron, were found without it.

"The space between the chapel-yard and the entrenchment is very unequal, and contains several tumuli, and their respective hollows, from whence perhaps they were dug. About twenty yards from the former entrenchment is another, which either was, or was intended to have been, much larger. It is only a segment of a circle less than a semicircle, and has two large gaps in it. In some parts the vallum is high, and the ditch broad; but in others

Digitized by Google

the rampart decreases till it becomes level with the plane of the hill, and seems intended to inclose fifteen acres. There is only one entrance at the west. On every side, near two miles round, are many tumuli; several of which have been opened, but no coins, armour, or bones, found. In the adjoining fields are many other works of this nature."

The Parish Church of Horton adjoins the supposed site of the above religious house. It was almost wholly re-edified about the year 1720: from its then ruinous state, it appeared to be very ancient, and is conjectured to have been a part of the Priory Church; though the fact is doubtful. It was dedicated to St. Wolfrida, mother to St. Edith, Abbess of Wilton. In the belfry of the old Church was an aisle belonging to the family of Hastings, in which was a monument to the memory of HENRY, one of that family, fourth son to George, Earl of Huntingdon. The singularity of this gentleman's character is commemorated in a curious inscription under an original picture at Lord Shaftesbury's,* supposed to have been written by that Nobleman. The seat

* "In the year 1638 lived Mr. Hastings, by his quality, son, brother, and uncle, to the Earls of Huntingdon. He was, peradventure, an original in our age, or rather the copy of our ancient Nobility, in hunting, not in warlike times. He was low, very strong, and very active; of a reddish flaxen hair; his clothes always green cloth, and never worth, when new, five pounds. His house was perfectly of the old fashion, in the midst of a large park, well stocked with deer; and near the house, rabbits for his kitchin; many fish-ponds; great store of wood and timber; a bowling-green in it, long, but narrow, full of high ridges, it being never levelled since it was ploughed: they used round sand bowles; and it had a banqueting house like a stand, a large one built in a tree. He kept all manner of sport hounds, that run buck, fox, hare, otter, and badger; and hawks, long and short winged. He had all sorts of nets for fish. He had a walk in the New Forest, and the Manor of Christ-Church: this last supplied him with red deer, sea, and river-fish; and, indeed, all his neighbours' grounds and royalties were free to him, who bestowed all his time on these sports, but what he borrowed to caress his neighbours' wives and daughters, there being not a woman in all his walks, of the degree of a yeoman's wife, or under, and under the age of forty, but it was her own fault if he was not intimately acquainted with her. This made him very popular; always speaking kindly to the husband, brother, or father, who was to boot very

seat of Mr. Hastings at *Woodlands*, in this parish, has been entirely rebuilt, except two wings, which still remain. In one of them

very welcome to his house. Whenever he came there, he found beef, pudding, and small beer, in great plenty; the house not so neatly kept as to shame him or his dirty shoes; the great hall strewed with marrow-bones; full of hawks, perches, hounds, spaniels, and terriers; the upper side of the hall hung with fox-skins, of this or the last year's killing; here and there a pole-cat intermixed; game-keepers' and hunters' poles in great abundance. The parlour was a large room, as properly furnished. On a great hearth, paved with brick, lay some terriers, and the choicest hounds and spaniels. Seldom but two of the great chairs had litters of cats in them, which were not to be disturbed: he having always three or four attending him at dinner; and a little white stick, of fourteen inches long, lying by his trencher, that he might defend such meat as he had no mind to part with to them. The windows, which were very large, served for places to lay his arrows, cross-bows, and stone-bows, and such like accoutrements; the corners of the room full of the best chosen hunting or hawking poles; his oyster table at the lower end, which was of constant use, for he never failed to eat oysters all seasons, both dinner and supper: the neighbouring town of Poole supplied him with them. The upper part of the room had two tables and a desk, on the one side of which was a Church Bible, and on the other side the Book of Martyrs: on the table were hawkes' hoods, bells, and such like; two or three old hats, with their crowns thrust in, so as to hold ten or a dozen eggs, which were of the pheasant kind of poultry; these he took much care of, and fed himself. Tables, dice, cards, and boxes, were not wanting. In the hole of the desk were store of tobacco-pipes that had been used. On one side of this end of the room was the door of a closet, wherein stood the strong beer and the wine, which never came from thence but in single glasses, that being the rule of the house exactly observed; for he never exceeded in drink, or permitted it. On the other side was the door of an old Chapel, not used for devotion; the pulpit, as the safest place, was never wanting of a cold chine of beef, venison pasty, gammon of bacon, or a great apple-pye, with thick crust, extremely baked. His table cost him not much, though it was good to eat at. His sports supplied all but beef or mutton, except Fridays, when he had the best of salt fish, as well as other fish he could get; and this was the day his neighbours of best quality visited him. He never wanted a London pudding, and always sung in eating it, "With my pert eyes thereina"—("my *part lies* thereina," it should be.) He drank a glass or two of wine at meals; very often put syrup of gillyflowers in his sack, and had always a tun-glass, without feet, stood by him, holding a pint of small beer, which he often stirred with rosemary. He was well natured, but soon angry, calling his servants bastards and cuckoldry knaves, in one of which he often

them is the old Chapel, with the original pulpit and seats. In the other is a very large kitchen, and a very capacious cellar under it, expressive of the good cheer which once prevailed. In the servants' hall are several coats of arms. In the year 1778 some laborers dug up, near this spot, the fragments of a large earthen vessel, which contained several brass penates, rings, fibulæ, &c. but quarrelling among themselves, the discovery came to the ears of the Steward, who seized the whole.

"In the midst of an heath called *Shag's Heath*, lying between the roads leading to Ringwood and Fording Bridge, is an inclosure of several fields, in one of which, in a ditch under an ashen tree, inscribed with several names, and visited by the curious, was taken the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth, after his flight from the battle of Sedgemore, in Somersetshire. Several of our historians will have him to be taken at Ringwood, Holt, &c. but that it really happened here, is proved by the testimony of several persons lately living, who remembered the fact.

"The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that, after the defeat of Sedgemore, the Duke and Lord Lumley quitted their horses at Woodyates, whence the former, disguised as a peasant, wandered hither. He dropped his gold snuff-box in a pea-field, where it was afterwards found full of gold pieces, and brought to Mrs. Uvedale, of Horton: one of the finders had 15l. for half the contents or value of it. The Duke went on to the *Island*, as it is called, a cluster of small farms in the middle of the Heath, and there concealed himself in a deep ditch under the ash. When the pursuers came up, a woman, who lived in a neighbouring cot, gave information of his being somewhere in the Island, which was immediately surrounded by soldiers, who passed the night there, and threatened to fire the neighbouring cots. As they were going away next morning, one of them espied the brown skirt of the Duke's coat, and seized him. The soldier no sooner knew him, than

often spoke truth to his own knowledge, and sometimes in both, though of the same man. He lived to be an hundred, and never lost his eye-sight, but always wrote and read without spectacles, and got on horseback without help. Until past fourscore, he rode to the death of the stag as well as any."

Digitized by Google

than he burst into tears, and reproached himself for the unhappy discovery. The family of the woman who first gave the information, are said to have fallen into decay, and never thrived afterwards. The Duke was carried before Anthony Ettricke, Esq. of Holt, a Justice of the Peace, who ordered him to London. Being asked what he would do, if set at liberty, he answered, if his horse and arms were restored, he only desired to ride through the army, and he defied them all to take him again. Farmer Kerley's grandmother, lately dead, saw him, and described him as a black, genteel, tall man, with a dejected countenance. The close where he concealed himself is called *Monmouth Close*, and is the extremest north-east field of the Island."*

WIMBORNE ST. GILES, a small parish on the river Allen, was the birth-place of the Rev. MAURICE WHELER, who published the first Oxford Almanack in 1673, in *octavo*, of which nearly 30,000 copies were sold. This success so much alarmed the society of booksellers for their profits in other annual publications, that they bought off the copy-right, since which only the *sheet* Oxford Almanack, with a large copper-plate, has been published at the Clarendon Press.

The lords of this manor were anciently the *Plecys*, from whom it descended to a Cornish family of the name of Hamelyn. The seventeenth of Edward the Fourth, Egidia Tame, widow, sole daughter of Sir John Hamelyn, Knt. held the manor of the honor of Gloucester; her son *Edmund Ashley* being her heir.† It appears that the family of Ashley came originally from Wiltshire, and were lords of a manor bearing their name. Robert, the father of the above Edmund, and the first of the family seated here, was descended, as Coker observes, "by a younger branch, from

 a noble

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol II. p. 28, 2d Edit.

† Egidia Hamelyn (relict of Sir Thomas Fane, Knt.) married Robert Ashley, and being a great heiress, brought considerable property into the family, in the reign of Henry the Fourth; and as Edmund, the son and heir of this marriage, was the lineal descendant of both the *Plessys* and *Malmairs*, (the ancient owners of this estate,) this family may be said to have lived there for ages before. *Hutchins's Dorset*, Vol. I. Pedigree of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Digitized by Google

a noble and ancient family." Anthony Ashley was knighted at the taking of Cadiz in 1597, where he served as Secretary at War. Being created a Baronet by James the First, on the third of June, 1622, he was appointed Secretary to the Privy Council, and died in 1628. This gentleman first introduced cabbages from Holland into England.* His heiress Anne, having married John Cooper, Esq.† of Rockbourne, in Hants, that gentleman was created a Baronet, and was afterwards knighted by King James. His son, SIR ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER, Bart. and one of the greatest statesmen in this kingdom, was a native of this parish: and as his life is very much connected with the history of Dorsetshire, we shall relate it somewhat at length. He was born on the twenty-second of July, 1621. Even in his youth he displayed such activity, quick perception, and extraordinary genius, mingled with so much prudence, that, though left an infant heir to a vast estate, it had not the too common effect of making him neglect his studies; so that when he became a Fellow Commoner in Exeter College, Oxford, in 1636, he was esteemed by the whole University as a youth of uncommon acquirements.

When he removed to Gray's Inn, his knowledge of the British jurisprudence was as extensive as his assiduity had been unremitting; the most judicious men and great lawyers asserting, "that he understood the nature of the laws, ancient customs, and constitution of the kingdom, as well as, if not better, than most persons then

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. 1st Edit.

† The possessions of this gentleman in Dorsetshire were exceedingly numerous, and produced a rental of 8000l. per annum. By an inquisition made after his death, in 1631, it was found that the following, among other demesnes, had belonged to him. Manor and hundred of Wimborne St. Giles, and advowson to the Church; the Manor of Wimborne French, Wimborne All Saints, and the advowson; Upper Wimborne, Allhallows, alias All Saints, with divers lands there; the Manor of Philipston in Upper Wimborne; the Manor of Gussage All Saints, out of which there is a grant to an alms-house for the maintenance of eleven poor people; the several Manors of Kingston; Hinton-Martyn, alias Martel; Chaldbury, and Didlington; the rectory of the Church of Lodres, and advowson of the vicarage; Bylcomb Mill; and lands in Gussage Allhallows, and a burgage called the White Hart in Cranborne.

Digitized by Google

then living." With such acquirements he was, in 1639, elected one of the Members for Tewkesbury. On the commencement of the Civil Wars, he went to the King at Oxford, and being introduced to His Majesty, proposed such a plan, as would have healed the wounds with which the country began to be afflicted; but the interference of some selfish persons about the throne, to which was unhappily joined an obstinacy on the part of Charles, completely counteracted this patriotic endeavor at conciliation.*

* In Collins's Peerage the circumstance is thus related. "Being introduced to his Majesty by Lucius Carey, second Viscount Falkland, his friend, then Secretary of State, he proposed, *if his Majesty would empower him to treat with the Parliament garrisons, and grant them a full and free pardon, with an assurance that a general amnesty (arms being laid down on both sides) should reinstate all things in the same posture they were in before the war, and then a free Parliament do what remained to be done for the settlement of the nation; that on his Majesty's agreeing thereto, he would try the experiment, first in his own county, and doubted not but the good success he should have there, would open him the gates of other adjoining garrisons.* And being furnished with the powers he desired, he accordingly went into Dorsetshire, where he managed a treaty with the garrisons of Weymouth, Poole, Dorchester, and other towns in that county; and raising a regiment for his Majesty's service, he possessed himself of Weymouth; and the others would have submitted to him; but Prince Maurice, who commanded the King's forces in those parts, no sooner heard of the surrender, but he presently marched into it, giving his soldiers licence to pillage. This provoked Sir Anthony so far, that he could not forbear expressing his resentments to the Prince; and he sent to the other garrisons he was in treaty with, to stand upon their guard, as he could not secure his articles to them; and thereby the design died in embryo." Thus ceased a plan as patriotic as it was humane; the King's interest was sacrificed to gratify personal resentment and temerity.

The celebrated John Locke, Esq. who wrote some Memoirs of his Lordship, relates the following additional particulars of this unsuccessful attempt to stop the progress of the flames of Civil War. "It was not long after, before his active thoughts, always intent on serving his country, (the good thereof being that by which he steered his councils and actions through the whole course of his life,) before he set his head on another project; which took its rise in a debate between him and Serjeant Fountain meeting accidentally in an inn at Hungerford; and both disliking the continuation of the war, it was started between them, that the several counties through England should arm, and endeavour to suppress the armies on both sides. This proposal he after considered

Lord Clarendon observes, that, to give Sir Anthony's claim more weight, he had been promised, by the Earl of Hertford, the government of Weymouth; but Prince Maurice having nominated another, such a misunderstanding arose between them, as gave the King great uneasiness. His Majesty wished not to disappoint the Earl, but unfortunately persisted in obliging the Prince; yet on the honest and spirited remonstrance of Sir Edward Hyde, and a representation of the disagreeable consequences which a refusal might create, Charles was with great difficulty prevailed on to grant his commission to Sir Anthony to be Governor of Weymouth. He, however, did not long enjoy this *glimmering* of court favor; the next year, 1644, the government was conferred on Colonel Ashburnham, to the exclusion of *Sir Anthony*, who

dered more at leisure, and framed into a practical contrivance, and never left working in it, till he had brought most of the sober and well-intentioned gentlemen on both sides through England into the design. This gave rise to that third sort of army, which of a sudden started up with so much terror to the armies both of King and Parliament, that had not some, who engaged in it, failed to rise at the time appointed, THE CLUBMEN (for that appellation they had) would have been strong enough to have carried their point, which was to force both sides to lay down their arms, and declare for a general amnesty; to have the then Parliament dissolved, and a new one called for redressing the grievances, and settling the nation. This undertaking had very promising grounds of success, the yeomen and body of the people having suffered much by the war; and the men of estates had abated of their firmness, and wished to return to their former ease, security, and plenty; especially perceiving that the soldiers of fortune had the commands and power put into their hands. It was thereupon first set to move where he was most near, Dorsetshire and Somersetshire. Lord Clarendon *(and from him and others, Hutchins in his Introduction)* has given an account of their proceedings. Before they began to act, the Court had learned, or suspected, that the rise and life of it was owing to Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper; and was so much alarmed, as to endeavour to get him in their power. And in order thereto, the King sent him a more than ordinary civil letter, to come to him at Oxford; but he had information, that the Lord Goring, who lay with an army in those parts, had orders from Court to seize him; so that, when that Lord had sent for him to come on a day appointed to dine with him, he did not think it safe to accept of the *invitation*. And reflecting on these particulars, he thought himself in danger in the King's quarters, and took shelter in Portsmouth." *Peerage, Vol. III. p. 394, et seq.*

Digitized by Google

who was so disgusted by this diplomatic prevarication, that he quitted a party on whom he could place no confidence nor safety, and gave himself up to the service of the Parliament.

Sir Anthony, though now become a professed Parliamentarian, was not so great an enemy to his country, as to be drawn into all the extravagant and illegal measures which they pursued; and though the House of Commons threatened him with imprisonment in the Tower, unless he divulged some state secrets which had passed between him and Mr. Denzil Holles, and though at the time, Mr. Holles and he were, in other respects, inveterate enemies, nothing could induce Sir Anthony to declare what he knew, urged as he was by Cromwell and his party, who were intent upon Holles's ruin. This magnanimous conduct in Sir Anthony subdued the quarrel, and made him and Mr. Holles firm friends ever after.

His considerable interest in this county induced the Parliament to treat him with the greatest distinction; and he accepted from them a commission of horse, together with the command of the forces ordered to act in the county of Dorset. But the ambitious Cromwell, aiming at the usurpation of supreme power, found an opponent in Sir Anthony, who thwarted his designs, by acting the part of a wise politician, as well as a true Englishman. Cromwell hated him; and gave secret directions to the Sheriffs of the several counties to prevent, if possible, his return to Parliament; but finding he could not succeed, Cromwell took an effectual method to rid himself of Sir Anthony's parliamentary contradiction, by denying him, and 100 other Members, admission into the House.

A remonstrance from Sir Anthony, and those who were so arbitrarily and illegally excluded, was the consquence; and though the Protector was at the zenith of his glory, with a vast army, and a Parliament at his command, our great patriot did not fear to say, "*That the Protector had assumed an absolute arbitrary Sovereignty, &c. which every man* OUGHT TO DESTROY, *until, by some agreement with the body of the people in Parliament, some sort of governing power in him were submitted unto, that thereby he might cease to be a* PUBLIC ENEMY *and* DESTROYER, *and become*

Digitized by Google

become a King, or Governor, according to the conditions accepted by the people."

Cromwell's Convention having raised him the supplies he wanted, was prorogued; but on the second meeting it was moved, "That no Member, legally chose and returned, could be excluded from performing their duty, but by consent of Parliament." Sir Anthony, and the excluded Members, were of course admitted, and were no sooner firmly seated, than they began to rescind the peculative acts of their predecessors; and continued so strongly in questioning Cromwell's tyrannical power, that he soon thought it necessary to dissolve the assembly.

A systematical dissent to all the measures of the republican usurpation, and a constant correspondence which he always maintained with the Royal party, to the hazard of his life, and the ruin of his family, was sufficiently known to Charles the Second. He had too great a sense of the confusion of the times, not to wish the government of the nation upon its original establishment; though, by temporising with those in power, he thought he should sooner accomplish it; hence arose the suspicions of the Council of State in Wallingford House against him, and he narrowly escaped their vengeance, by a seasonable obscurity. But he never ceased his endeavors, till he had raised a spirit and strength to declare openly for the Restoration, after having detected Monk's wish to assume the government in his own person.

The Restoration being established, Charles the Second rewarded Sir Anthony by an accumulation of titles and honors. He was created Baron Ashley of Wimborne St. Giles, the twentieth of April, 1661: soon afterwards he was made Chancellor and under Treasurer of the Exchequer; and in 1667, second Commissioner of the Treasury. In 1671, he was constituted Lord Lieutenant of the county of Dorset; and at length, for his vast merits, created Lord Cooper of Pawlet, in the county of Somerset, and Earl of Shaftesbury, in 1672: the same year he was appointed Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain; and, "with what prudence, candour, honour, and integrity, he acquitted himself in that great and weighty employment, the transactions of the Court of Chancery

Digitized by Google

will best testify." Scarcely one of his decrees at that fluctuating period were reversed!

His opposition to the Duke of York sprung from the same pure source whence his former patriotic measures proceeded. It is well known that he had no personal disregard to the Royal House; his systematical conduct in their support proves the contrary; but he was a Protestant, and an abhorrer of tyranny; of course he was a marked victim to the Duke and his partizans: they were the means of his being deprived of the Seals; they urged his impeachment, and commitment to the Tower;* and sought out the meanest measures to establish their accusation! They even examined the Court rolls in the several offices through which he had passed; and picking out a few frivolous circumstances, presented a paper to the King's Council, who, to the great mortification of his adversaries, reported, "*That nothing could be drawn from out of those papers sufficient for any information.*" His enemies tried to indict him for one of the fashionable plots of those days; but the grand Jury of London brought in their verdict, *ignoramus!* which caused public rejoicings and bon-fires throughout the city. Finding, however, his situation in England, disagreeable, oppressed as it was by contending and violent parties, he retired to Holland, where he received every testimony of public regard.

This flattering reception in some measure renewed his spirits; but a fresh attack of an habitual gout flying up to his stomach, deprived him of life in the sixty-second year of his age. His body being embalmed, was brought to England in a ship hung with mourning;

* A letter written by his Lordship to a fellow Peer, is in some degree expressive of his sufferings at this period; and also of the measures pursued in his favor.

"My Lord, I had prepared this for your meeting in December, but that being adjourned to the third of April, an age to an old infirm man, especially shut up in a winter's prison; forgive me if I say you owe yourself, and your posterity, as well as me, the endeavouring to remove so severe a precedent on one of your Members, such, as I may truly say, is the first of the kind; and I pray heartily may be the last. Your intercession to his Majesty, if it be general, is not likely to be refused; if you are single, yet you have done honourable, and what I should have done for you." *Collins, Vol. III. p.* 422.

Digitized by Google

mourning; and the respect of the gentlemen of his native county was so extraordinary, that, after the corpse was landed at Poole, they came uninvited, and accompanied it to Wimborne St. Giles, where his Lordship was buried among his ancestors.

The Earl of Shaftesbury was well acquainted with the interests of the several Princes and States of Europe; this will account for his capacity in politics. As an encourager of literature, his house was the asylum of the learned; and be it remembered, to his great honor, that though admitted to the councils of a corrupt Court, his principles were unsullied, and his integrity uncorrupted; and although a respected author has asserted, "*that he prostituted his eloquence to enslave his country, and became the factious leader, and the popular incendiary;*" we are more inclined to adopt the opinion of Mr. Locke, with whom his Lordship was intimate, "*that the good of his country was what he steered his councils and actions by through the whole course of his life.*" In his principles he was a Protestant, and member of the established Church. He was faithful to his friends, liberal to the poor, and chaste in his affections. Charles the Second said of him, when deciding on a difficult case, "*That he had a Chancellor that was master of more law than all his Judges, and was possessed of more divinity than all his Bishops.*"

To shew his beneficence even in smaller degrees, when he was in the Tower, and uncertain of his fate, he ordered copyhold estates to be granted to several of his servants during their lives, which they afterwards enjoyed as a reward of their fidelity. As he lived respected and beloved, so he bore his illness with becoming patience, and an admirable temper of mind; and expired, yielding an entire submission to the will of the Divinity he devoutly served. He died on the twenty-second of January, in the year 1683. Anthony, third Earl of Shaftesbury, was the author of the celebrated *Characteristics*, which go under his name. His grandson, the present Earl, is now owner of the manor.

The Mansion-House of the Lords Shaftesbury stands in rather a low situation, at no great distance from the Church. "Its form

* Granger, Vol. III. p. 392, 8vo.

Digitized by Google

form approaches to a parallelogram, consisting of three parts, each of which are contracted by two inbenchings. The eastern part is the narrowest and most ancient, and seems to have been the ancient seat of the Ashleys; the western part is broader than any of the rest, and was built in the year 1561: the whole is embattled. The apartments below stairs are esteemed the best in England. Adjoining to it is a park two miles round: the garden is pleasant and spacious; and is adorned with several pieces of water, pleasure houses, statues, and other ornaments: the river Allen runs through it. Here is one of the finest grottos in England; it consists of two parts; the innermost and largest is furnished with a vast variety of curious shells, disposed in the most beautiful manner; the outer, or ante-grotto, with ores and minerals of all kinds, collected from various parts of the world. It was begun in the year 1751: the arrangement took up two years, and, with the expence of collecting the shells, ores, &c. cost 10,000l."*.

CRANBORNE,

A SMALL market-town near the north-east confines of the county, was famous as early as the Saxon and Norman times for "its Monastery, Chace, and Lords." Between the years 930 and 980, the Manor belonged to a noble soldier called *Haylward de Meau*, from his pale or fair complexion. "His grandson, *Brictricus*, was sent Ambassador into Norway, where refusing to marry Matilda, afterwards Queen to William the Conqueror, she was so provoked at this affront, that, when her husband came to the Crown of England, she procured an order to seize Brictricus at his Mansion, or Castle, at Hanley, in Worcestershire."† After the Conquest, this manor was given to Queen Matilda, on whose death it reverted to the Crown, and was, by William Rufus, bestowed on Robert Fitz-Hamon, nephew to the Conqueror. After his decease it became the property of Robert, first Earl of Gloucester, illegitimate son to Henry the First, who had married one

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 216, 1st Edit. † Ibid, p. 138.

Digitized by Google

one of the four heiresses of Robert Fitz-Hamon. From the Earls of Gloucester it passed by marriage of a female to the *Mortimers*, Earls of March, and has since descended through various families.

On this spot, in the British area, is said to have been a College of six Priests: a small Monastery for Benedictines was afterwards founded on its site by Haylward de Meau, about the year 980. In the year 1102, Robert Fitz-Hamon, on having rebuilt the Church of Tewkesbury, translated all the Monks, except three, from the Monastery of Cranborne to that Church, which he converted into an Abbey, and enriched with various possessions, after which Cranborne remained a mere cell to Tewkesbury. At the Dissolution it was suppressed with that Abbey; but its revenue is not mentioned. It contained at that period a Prior and two Monks. The Priory House stood near the Church, and was an ancient building. The letters *T P* were in several parts of it, as well as the Church, and show it was rebuilt by Abbot Parker. It was pulled down in 1703. The Priory Church is now the parish Church, and one of the oldest in the county. It contains several monuments of the Hooper family.

Cranborne, says Leland, "is a praty thorough fair, and hath one street meetly welle builded. There rennith a fleting bek thorough it, and passid down thorough the street self, on the right hond." The parish of Cranborne is one of the largest in Dorsetshire; its circumference being about thirty miles, and its longest diameter twelve. It contains 337 houses, and 1402 inhabitants: most of the laboring classes are employed in agriculture.

At a small estate, about half a mile south from Cranborne, formerly the property of the *Stillingfleets*, was born the eminent EDWARD STILLINGFLEET, Bishop of Worcester. "He was a prelate of universal learning, a great divine, and a celebrated preacher. His many and excellent writings on the subjects of ecclesiastical history, antiquities, and controversy, will ever remain perpetual monuments of his merit and abilities, and show him

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 138, 1st Edit.

Digitized by Google

him to have been one of the chief ornaments of the episcopal bench."* He died in the year 1699, at the age of sixty-four.

The *Via Iceniana*, as was before mentioned,† enters this county near Woodyates, and may be afterwards traced pretty distinctly to Badbury. Near Woodyates Inn, to the north-east, it is crossed by a high vallum, and ditch, called *Grimes's Ditch*, which begins "a little west of Grovely, in Wiltshire; and passing near Chickbury, Broadchalk, and Woodyates, goes thence in a south-east direction to the Stour, not far west from Christ-Church, in Hampshire. It is supposed by Dr. Stukeley to have been thrown up before Cæsar's time, perhaps by the Belgæ, and serves at present to divide the counties of Wilts and Dorset."‡ The Downs, for an extent of several miles round Woodyates Inn, are strewed with *Barrows*, some of which are very large; and three or four are depressed or sunk in the middle, and surrounded by circular trenches, each about sixty feet in diameter. From the vast number of these barrows, Mr. Aubrey imagined this vicinity to have been the theatre of a great battle, "probably between the Romans and Boadicea, it agreeing so well with the description of Tacitus."

At EASTBURY, a depopulated hamlet, was formerly an extremely magnificent seat, erected by the facetious George Bubb Doddington, Esq. afterwards Lord Melcombe Regis. The expence of building amounted to upwards of 140,000l. The gardens were very extensive, and ornamented with canals, and various plantations of trees, many of which were brought hither after fifty years growth, and from the distance of several miles. The extent of the mansion in front, and its different offices, was 570 feet. After the death of Lord Melcombe Regis, this estate devolved on the late Earl Temple, who offered 200l. per annum to any gentleman that would occupy, and keep the mansion in repair; but the proposal not being accepted, "it was determined to pull it down; and the materials produced little more than the prime cost of the plumber's and glazier's work."

SHAFTESBURY,

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 138, 1st Edit.

† See p. 328. ‡ Mutton's Western Counties, Vol. I. p. 2.

Digitized by Google

SHAFTESBURY, or SHASTON

As it is generally termed, is a place of very remote origin, traditionally reported to have existed long prior to the Roman invasion. By the Britons it is said to have been called *Caer Palladur*, a name derived from the *shaftlike* eminence, or steep hill almost to a *point*, on which it is situated. The various fabulous accounts given of its origin, may be considered as an intimation of high antiquity. Some authors assert it to have been built by Dubrasius, or Cicuber, King of the Britons, who flourished 500 years before Christ. Holinshed says, it was built by Lud, or Hudibras, son of Leil, eighth King of the Britons from Brute, who began to reign A. M. 3046, and reigned twenty-nine years. Brampton affirms, that it was founded by Cassibelan, a British King, and *Magnæ* sinoritatis *erat civitas.**

That Shaftesbury was known to the Romans, is inferred from many coins of that people, which have been found here; and also from some other circumstances. Camden, however, was of opinion, that it was built by Alfred; as was evinced, he observes, by "the ancient inscription, mentioned by William of Malmsbury to have been in his time removed out of the ruins of the walls into the Chapter-House of the Nuns." This inscription was as follows.

Anno Dominicæ Incarnationis, Aelfredus Rex fecit hanc Urbem DCCCLXXX, Regni sui VIII.†

Those who allow a greater antiquity to Shaftesbury than this inscription seems to intimate, contend, that the word *fecit*, means simply, that Alfred enlarged and repaired it; and this opinion is in some degree countenanced both by Brompton and Asser. The latter, who died in the reign of that Monarch, mentions the town as in his time consisting of "one street."

In the Saxon times, Shaftesbury had attained considerable celebrity, principally in consequence of the Nunnery founded here at least

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 292, 2d Edit.

† King Alfred built this city in the year of our Lord 880, and in the eighth year of his reign.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

least as early as the reign of Alfred, if not by that Monarch himself. King Athelstan allowed it the special privilege of having two mints, and a third was added in the days of the Confessor. Previous to the Conquest, its importance had somewhat decreased, through the irruptions of the Danes. In the Domesday Book, it is said to have "166 houses, thirty-eight having been destroyed since the time of Hugh the Sheriff; and in that part of the town belonging to the Abbess, where had been 158 houses, there were only 111, forty-seven being destroyed." It soon, however, recovered its ancient splendor; and is mentioned soon after the above period, as containing no less than twelve parish Churches, including the magnificent Abbey Church of St. Edward the Martyr.

The Manor of Shaftesbury appears, from the Domesday Survey, to have been very anciently divided into two moieties; one of which belonged to the Crown, and the other to the Abbey. The Abbey Manor was surrendered in the thirtieth of Henry the Eighth; whose successor, Edward the Sixth, granted it to Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, together with the town, borough, site and precincts of the late Monastery of Shaftesbury. From him it passed to Sir Thomas Arundel; and afterwards to the Earls of Pembroke, by one of whom, Philip, the royalty of the manor, and borough manor, were sold to Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury.

In ancient times Shaftesbury was much resorted to, and, in fact, derived almost all its splendor from its celebrated Monastery. This, as before mentioned, was founded in the days of Alfred, whose charter of foundation, appointing his daughter Ethelgeda, Abbess, is yet extant. Its site is well known, though scarcely the least vestige remains of its ruins. This Nunnery, which was of the Benedictine order, was the richest and best endowed in England, occupied a great extent of ground, and possessed a vast number of offices and apartments within its precincts. The Abbess was one of the four that held of the King a whole Barony, in consequence of which she was liable to be called to Parliament, but was excused on account of her sex: she had writs, however, directed to her, to send her quota of men into the field, according

Digitized by Google

to her knights' fees. The Church, of which no further description remains, than that it contained eleven chantries, was most probably a large and magnificent fabric, as may be judged by the romantic traditions the townsmen retain of its magnitude and height. This structure was originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary; but on the translation of the body of Edward the Martyr, it assumed the name of that Saint, which it retained till the Dissolution. Many miracles were said to be wrought at his shrine, and the concourse of pilgrims was immense. Among these the illustrious name of Canute, who died here, appears most conspicuous. The Convent was valued at the Suppression, according to Dugdale, at 1166l. 8s. 9d. per annum: but by Speed it is rated at 1329l. 1s. 3d. The last Abbess was Elizabeth Souche, or Zouche, who had a yearly pension assigned her of 133l. and was living in *1553*. The number of Nuns at the time of its surrender was fifty-four.

Both the Church and Monastery appear to have been ruined as early as the time of Leland, as may be inferred from the way he mentions it. Bones and coffins are frequently dug up where the former stood, but not a stone of the building is remaining. Of the Abbey House, there appear two or three large arches walled up, which led formerly to passages, uniting with different parts of the building. Great part of the materials, on its demolition, are supposed to have been used in erecting a house for Sir Thomas Arundel, who formerly resided in the town. The park belonging to the Monastery still retains the name of *Park Hill*, and is of considerable extent. At the east end remains part of the wall that inclosed it, which next the town is strong, high, and embattled, and supported by very large buttresses. In other places little more than the ruins are extant. Many antiquities have occasionally been discovered; and some reliques are yet remaining, which are supposed to have belonged to the Abbey.

"In the year 1746, on sinking a saw-pit in a garden between the east end of Park Hill and the passage that leads to the Abbey Green, about four feet deep, was found, with some human bones, a gold ring, weighing three quarters of an ounce, value 6l. without any inscription or figure. In 1761 was dug up on the same hill, a stone

a stone about two feet square, on which were the arms of the Abbey, a cross patonce between four martlets, very fairly cut." In the possession of a gentleman of this town is a remnant of a cloth, and a chalice, formerly belonging to one of the religious houses, most probably the Abbey. The chalice, which is of silver-gilt, is uncommonly elegant. The body of the cup, with its cover, resembles a pine apple, from which issues a sprig of foliage. The stand is equally admirable, being the stem of a vine, round which a man is clinging with an axe, in the action of striking at its root. The workmanship, as well as the design, is exquisite, and equal the classic remains of antiquity. The cloth, which belonged to the altar, appears to have been Holland, and has worked round it part of the following verse from the Psalms: "*The feare of the Lord is the beginning of wisdome.*"

Besides the Convent of St. Edward, there were anciently in Shaftesbury twelve Churches, several chantries and fraternities, and a Priory or Hospital of St. John the Baptist. The number of poor men in the latter were only five, who were maintained by the benevolence of the town's-people. The Cross of this Hospital is mentioned in a court roll the eleventh and twelfth of Edward the Third, as standing in East Street. This house, in the chantry roll, was valued at 4l. per annum, and had one bell valued at 2s. 3d.

"With all these religious edifices, this town made a very great figure in times of Popery. They were not only an ornament, but a great advantage to it, by the great concourse of pilgrims, and superstitious persons, whose mistaken piety drew them here, especially to the shrine of St. Edward. To these the town owed its reputation and flourishing condition; but at the Dissolution they all sunk in one common ruin."* Only four Churches are now remaining, respectively dedicated to St. Peter, the Holy Trinity, St. James, and St. Rumbald. Of these, *St. Peter's* is the principal. This building is of considerable antiquity, but has been much defaced by modern alterations. It consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles: the former is supported by four pointed arches, on

 clustered

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II.

Digitized by Google

clustered columns. The exterior of this Church is ornamented with pomegranites, roses, portcullises, coats of arms, and other objects. Several of the windows are also adorned with stained glass representing armorial bearings. The font, which has been engraved in Carter's Specimens of Ancient Architecture, is curiously carved. There is but one monument of any age in this Church, and that is supposed to have belonged originally to the Abbey. It consists of a large blue slab, serving as a step to the altar, and has the following inscription on a brass plate:

Sub isto Saxo tumulat' corpus Steph'i Payne, armiger', fil' et hered' Mich'i Payne, arm' quond' Senescalli hujus monasterii, qui ob.it xiiij die mens' Decembris. Anno D'ni m.cccc.xliij cujus a'ie p'piciet' Altissimus Deo Amen.

The Church of the *Holy Trinity* has a square tower, with battlements and pinnacles; and consists of a chancel, body, and side aisles. In the Church-yard, which is spacious, and planted with trees, is yet to be seen a considerable portion of the Abbey wall; and likewise a neat hexagon stone cross, on a base of three steps; not far from which lies half a blue slab, on which has been a brass figure of a knight armed, bare-headed, with an inscription on a label. Vulgar tradition represents it as a memorial of Edward the Martyr. *St. James's Church* is a small neat fabric, of some antiquity; *St. Rumbald's* is also a small structure; but neither contain any thing particularly deserving of notice. Besides these places of religious worship, here are three Meeting-houses for Presbyterians, Methodists, and Quakers. The other *principal* buildings of Shaftesbury are, the Town-Hall, or New Guildhall, a handsome edifice, built on five arches; a Free-School, *but* very moderately endowed; an Alms-house for sixteen poor women, founded in 1611, by Matthew Chubb, a gentleman *of* Dorchester, and since augmented by additional benefactions; a second Alms-house for ten poor men, erected in the year 1660; and three others of great antiquity, now converted into a Poor-House.

Shaftesbury

Digitized by Google

Shaftesbury is most pleasantly situated, being built on a very high hill, which affords an extensive prospect over great part of the three adjoining counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Wilts, to the latter of which this noble eminence may be said to form a natural barrier. The air is pure and healthy, but bleak, owing to its height; which circumstance has likewise frequently occasioned a scarcity of water. The appearance of the town is but indifferent, many of the buildings mean, and the streets mostly irregular. The chief material of which the houses are constructed is a species of stone dug out of the neighbouring eminences: it contains at present three parishes, 515 houses, and 2159 inhabitants.

Castle Green, an eminence west of the town, is supposed to have been so denominated from its having been the site of a Castle, though no mention whatever is made of such a fortress belonging to Shaftesbury. On the brow of the hill is a small mount, surrounded by a shallow ditch; this might have belonged to it; though by some it is supposed to have been a Roman entrenchment. Tradition says, near this spot stood the old city. "A vast landscape appears here: in front an eminence, called Pencliffe Hill, rises with a beautifully wooded summit, bounding the fertile Vale of Blackmoor, through which a white road, sometimes losing itself among woodlands, and sometimes traversing verdant pastures, winds westward into the distance. On the left, a fine undulating ridge shelters the vale; while the hills of Mere, in Wiltshire, with Alfred's Tower at the extremity, the Tor of Glastonbury, and the lofty heights of Quantock in Somersetshire, range themselves in the remaining part of the horizon."*

The borough of Shaftesbury is very ancient, as appears from its being mentioned as such in the Domesday Book. The first regular charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth; it vests the government of the town in a Corporation, consisting of a Mayor, Recorder, twelve Aldermen, a Bailiff, and Common Councilmen. Previous to the time of that Princess, however, it had a Mayor, and several Burgesses. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, it was

 made

* Maton's Western Counties.

Digitized by Google

made the See of a Suffragan Bishop; the first parson consecrated was John Bradley, Abbot of Milton. The first return to Parliament was made in the twenty-fifth of Edward the First. The right of election is possessed by the inhabitants paying scot and lot; the number of voters is about 300. The chief proprietors are William Bryant, Esq. of Reigate, and Mark Wood, Esq. of Pierrefield, who purchased his share at the expence of 30,000l. To the former belong about 160 houses, and sixty-four acres of land; to the latter, about 150 houses, and twenty-five acres of land.

This borough has been particularly remarked for its venality; an instance of which is preserved in the following singular story. In the year 1774, "Sir Thomas Rumbold, and Sir Francis Sykes, two Nabobs, were returned to represent this borough. A petition was presented by Hans Wintrop Mortimer, Esq. complaining that the two sitting Members, by themselves, and their agents, had been guilty of many gross and notorious acts of bribery and corruption. It appeared in evidence on the trial of this petition, that money to the amount of several thousand pounds had been given among the voters, in sums of twenty guineas a man; and that persons who were intrusted with the disbursement of this money, and who were *chiefly, the Magistrates of the town*, devised very singular and absurd contrivances to conceal through what channel it was conveyed to the electors. A person concealed under a ludicrous and fantastical disguise, and called by the name of PUNCH, was placed in a small apartment, and through a hole in the door delivered out to the voters, parcels containing twenty guineas each; after which they were conducted to another apartment in the same house, where they found a second person, called *Punch's Secretary*, who required them to sign notes for the value received: these notes were made payable to another imaginary character, to whom was given the name of *Glenbucket*. Two of the witnesses swore they had seen Punch through the hole in the door, and that they knew him to be Mr. Mathews, an Alderman of the town."*

This

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 413, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

This town, from its situation on the "top of a high hill, is entirely destitute of springs; except at the foot of the hills in St. James's parish, where are two wells, in the possession of private persons. At the foot of Castle-Hill were formerly some waterworks to supply the town: their reservoir was on the top of the Butter Cross:* but the inhabitants have, for time immemorial, been supplied with water brought on horses' backs, or on peoples' heads, from three or four large wells, a quarter of a mile below the town, in the hamlet of Motcomb, and parish of Gillingham: on which account there is this particular custom yearly observed by ancient agreement, dated 1662, between the Lord of the Manor of Gillingham, and the Mayor and Burgesses of Shaftesbury. The Mayor is obliged, the Monday before Holy Thursday, to dress up a prize Besom, or *Byzant*, as they call it, somewhat like a May garland in form, with gold and peacocks' feathers, and carry it to Enmore Green, half a mile below the town, in Motcomb, as an acknowledgment for the water; together with a raw calve's head, a pair of gloves, a gallon of beer, or ale, and two penny-loaves of white wheaten bread, which the Steward receives, and carries away to his own use. The ceremony being over, the Byzant is restored to the Mayor, and brought back by one of his Officers with great solemnity. This Byzant is generally so richly adorned with plate and jewels, borrowed from the neighbouring gentry, as to be worth not less than 1500l. A great many people get their living by carrying water, for which they have three halfpence, or two-pence, an horse-load, according to the part of the town they carry it to; and a farthing or a halfpenny a pail-full, if fetched upon the head."† Several attempts have been made to supply the town by engines; but the works proved unsuccessful, and have long been ruined. Latterly various wells have been dug; one of which, at the east end of Park-Hill, is 126 feet deep, and yields plenty of good water. "At several houses they have

* This Cross was taken down in the year 1727: at that period several other Crosses stood in different parts of the town, but have been since removed.

† Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 425.

Digitized by Google

dead wells, with proper shoots for catching the rain: that at the George Inn will hold 250 hogsheads."*

The Rev. JAMES GRANGER, author of the celebrated *Biographical History of England*, was a native of this town, being the son of a steel-cutter, who resided in a house near the Park, formerly occupied by Mr. Augier, and now by Mr. John Good. Through the influence of Lord Ilchester, who then had borough interest at Shaftesbury, he was sent Servitor to Christ Church College, Oxford. He afterwards married a Miss Jennings of Shiplake, in Oxfordshire, and in her right became possessed of the living of Shiplake, where he died in the year 1776. His death was thus noticed by one of his friends: "Early on Easter Monday morning died, universally lamented, the Rev. James Granger. On the preceding day, as he was entering upon the solemn office of the Holy Communion in his Church, where he had read prayers and preached, he was suddenly seized with an apoplectic fit, which, notwithstanding every human assistance, continued upon him till his departure from this world. He was universally respected by every person of rank and station. As an author, he was eminently ingenious, spirited, and candid: as a man, and a Christian, he was benevolent and humble, and without guile. He was what it was his highest ambition to be, an honest man, and a good parish Priest."

GILLINGHAM, the most extensive parish in Dorsetshire, occupies the northern extremity of the county, and includes an area of 64,000 acres, chiefly appropriated to grazing. Here was formerly a very large forest; and even in Leland's time it was "foure miles in length, and a mile, or thereboute, in bredth." In the reign of Charles the First, by whom it was disforested, the lessee was obliged to keep 400 deer for the King's recreation. Considerable disaffection was excited among the peasantry by its inclosure, and several persons were fined, and otherwise punished, through the riots which ensued. Near this place, at *Peonne, or Penn*, in Somersetshire, the battle between Canute and Edmund *Ironside*

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 425.

Digitized by Google

Ironside was fought; and the pursuit is supposed to have extended to the spot called *Slaughter Gate* in this parish.

At *Marnhull*, the paternal estate of the Hussey family, about four miles south of Gillingham, the late GILES HUSSEY, Esq. so famous for his portraits in pencil, was born, on the tenth of February, 1710. This gentleman was distinguished for a bold and original mode of thinking, particularly with respect to the arts, which led him to contemn professional trammels, and seek eminence by pursuing the deductions of his own judgment. The first rudiments of education were taught him at Douay, in France, whence he was removed to St. Omer's; and, on his return, placed under Richardson, the painter; but not liking the idea of seven years continued servitude, he left that artist in a short time, and agreed to assist an Italian historical painter, named Damini, who was employed to decorate the Cathedral of Lincoln. With him he remained four years, and in 1730 accompanied him to Bologna; but was there deserted and robbed by his master, and for nearly three months his situation was deplorable. At length, having procured the patronage of Signior Gislonzoni, he re-commenced his studies, and afterwards went to Rome, where he became the pupil, or rather friend, of the celebrated Hercule Lelli,* from whose valuable lessons he derived abundant information. He continued his studies at Rome till the year 1737, when he returned to England, and was reduced to paint portraits for a subsistence. This, which he esteemed the lowest branch of the art, was peculiarly mortifying to his feelings; but a proud spirit of independence enabled him for some years to persevere in the employment, rather than be indebted for support on the bounty of others. At length, wearied and spirit-broken, he retired to his elder brother at Marnhull, with whom he resided in the most friendly cordiality; and on the death of the former, succeeded to the estate; but afterwards, from religious motives, relinquished it to

* "What we receive from God," said Lelli, when asked on what terms he would take Hussey as a pupil, "we should give gratis; and the liberal arts are not to be sold! I accept you not as a scholar, but as a friend; and I wish to be known and called by that title, and not by that of Master!!"

Digitized by Google

to a near relation, and retired to Beaston, near Ashburton, in Devonshire; where, as he was one day employed in gardening, he suddenly fell; and as if by a *stroke ethereal stricken*, instantly expired. This event occurred in the month of June, 1778.

"The notions entertained by this very ingenious artist," observes Dr. Maton, "and the principles which he practised in the exercise of his profession, were very peculiar. He contended that the principles of harmony obtained generally throughout nature, and even in the proportions of the human form: these proportions being as delightful to the eye, in works of art, as they are, in sounds, to the ear; and that the former sense was as capable of judging of these harmonious proportions as the latter. Ideas similar to these, indeed, were entertained by many of the *early philosophers*, particularly by Pythagoras;* but it does not appear that they were ever applied, or extended, in so extraordinary a manner, as by our artist. He always drew the human head by the *Musical scale*,† alledging, that every human face was in harmony with itself; that however accurate the delineation of it from nature might be, in consequence of an artist having a very nice eye and hand, yet some little touches necessary to complete the likeness

* Παντα κατ' αρμονια. *Harmony prevails in all things.*

† This appears to have been the name given by Hussey to a series of particular rules of his own invention, for drawing correct proportions of the human figure. His system may be partly understood from the following extract from one of his own letters. "The difference between objects lovely and disagreeable, does not depend upon the resolution of concords into discords, but on the modes of management which are inevitably variable in both. *Beauty is the* result of concords in a natural order; the same misplaced, produces anarchy, and consequent distortion, which we call deformity. Let the breadth to the length of the face be as two to three; breadth to altitude of head, three to five; breadth of nose to breadth of face, one to four; length of mouth to breadth of face, three to ten; distance of eyes, one to four; eye in the clear, three to eight; depth of head to altitude, fifteen to sixteen; depth of head to face, four to five; distance of ear to head, five to eight; distance of jaw-bone *to face, two* to three; depth of the nose to the face, one to six; depth of mouth to face, one to twelve; clear of the eye to depth of face, one to sixteen; eye distant *to the* face, one to four, &c. thus drawn, it has its perfect diapason, diapente, diatesseron, and many other concords."

Digitized by Google

ness would be wanting, after all possible care; and that the only true criterion by which it could be known that any two things in drawing were exactly alike, was to procure a third, as a kind of mean proportional, by a comparison with which, the exact similarity of the other two might be proved. Accordingly, after he had sketched a drawing of a face from nature, he applied thereto his Musical scale, and observed in what correspondent points (taking the whole face, or profile, for the *octave*, or fundamental) the great lines of the features fell. Adhering to his principle, that every face was in harmony with itself, (though sometimes it might be a *concordia discors,)* after the *key note* was found, he of course discovered the correspondent ratios, or proportions; so that if, on applying the scale, thus rectified, as it were, to the drawing, he found any of the features, or principal points of the face, out of their proper places, by making them correspond to the scale, he always perceived that such corrections produced a better and more characteristic likeness."

The application of this Musical scale puzzled most of his friends; and one of them "having once remarked, that, though this principle might hold true respecting the whole of the human frame, when drawn quite formal and upright, and to the human face, (especially in profile,) yet he doubted whether it would apply in all the various attitudes into which the human body might be thrown, he replied, 'you will find that my principles hold good universally, if you consider these different attitudes as different *bars* in music.' Having produced a Madona and Child of Carracchi, he exemplified his meaning. The Child was standing on one leg, the other bent, and leaning on the Madona's breast. 'This,' said he, 'is a beautiful boy, and elegantly drawn; but now I will trace him exactly, apply the scale, and correct every part thereby, and then we shall see if he come not out more beautiful still, and more elegant.' He did so, and the intended effect followed."*

The academical drawings which Mr. Hussey left at Bologna, were, previous to the conquest of Italy by the French, carefully preserved

* Observations on the Western Counties, Vol. I. p. 35, *et seq.*

Digitized by Google

preserved there, and shown on account of their superior excellence; notwithstanding the custom in that school, of removing the old drawings to make room for those of superior merit. His portraits in black lead are particularly celebrated, and are finished in a remarkably delicate and correct style. Several of them are preserved at Wardour Castle, the seat of Lord Arundel, in Wiltshire; but the greatest number are in the possession of Mr. Weld, at Lullworth Castle. Many of his portraits in pencil were made from recollection, and are generally regarded as having been very accurate likenesses.

STALBRIDGE

Is a small market-town near the banks of the river Stour, on the north side of the county, bordering on Somersetshire. This place anciently belonged to the Abbey of Sherborne: after the Dissolution, the Manor, advowson, and lands, were granted, by Edward the Sixth, to the Duke of Somerset: on his attainder, they passed into the Audley family, and afterwards to Richard Boyle, Earl of Corke. This Nobleman left it to his youngest son, the Honorable Robert Boyle, who, in the early part of his life, made it his place of study; and the first chemical experiments of this great man were made at the Manor-House in 1646-7. Mr. Boyle resided here many years; and, by his will, bequeathed 300l. to the poor of the parish. The Manor was afterwards purchased by Peter Walter, Esq. who was Clerk of the Peace for the county of Middlesex, and Steward to the Duke of Newcastle, besides other noblemen and gentlemen. He acquired an immense fortune, represented the borough of Bridport, and died in 1745, aged eighty-three. Ten years afterwards, an act was passed to empower Edward Walter, Esq. and other persons, claiming under the wills of his grandfather and brother respectively, to make leases of the lands, &c. purchased, and to be purchased, since the will of Peter Walter, the grandfather.

This town, and most of the parish, is situated upon a rocky soil, which supplies the neighbourhood with stone for building, and other purposes: it is also famous for a stocking manufactory. The number

Digitized by Google

number of houses in the parish is 251; of inhabitants, 1250. In the centre of the town is a neat Cross, which, "including the base, is thirty feet high. At the top is a square block, with four niches; those on the east and west fronts have the Crucifixion, with the Virgin, and St. John. On this block stood a cross; and from the top of the free-stone of the pyramid to the hole in which this cross was fixed is ten feet. At the bottom of this block are several coats of arms; one of them seems a chevron or fess between three roses or escallops. The pyramid itself is twelve feet high, and all the angles are fluted. On one side of it is a defaced figure of Our Saviour, with the lamb at his feet. The four sides of the base are adorned with reliefs, one of which seems to represent the Resurrection of Christ, who holds a cross in his hand. The whole stands on three octagon flights of steps, each diminishing in the ascent."*

STURMINSTER-NEWTON CASTLE,

Or more generally *Sturminster-Newton*, a small market-town, is situated between three or four miles south-east of Stalbridge; and is formed of two townships on each side of the river Stour, which communicate with each other by a causeway and bridge of six arches, and form one manor.

Baxter conjectures this place to be the *Anicetis* of Ravennas; yet, though it may not be immediately of Roman origin, we are authorized to describe it as a place known in the early ages of the Saxons; for the *Castle* boasts of very remote antiquity; its ruins are in the form of a Roman D, and stand on a high hill, surrounded by a high vallum, and deep ditch, on the south-west and part of the east. Near the centre is a small artificial mount, or keep.

The Manor was held by the Abbey of Glastonbury, by a grant from King Edgar; having formerly been bequeathed by Alfred the Great

* A Print of this elegant little structure is engraved in Hutchins, from whose History the above account is extracted.

Digitized by Google

Great to his son Ethelwald. Edmund Ironside confirmed the grant in 1016, it containing at that time seventeen hides. After the Dissolution, the manor, rectory and advowson of the vicarage were granted, by Henry the Eighth, in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, to Queen Catharine Parr. On her death, two years afterwards, King Edward the Sixth granted this estate to his sister the Princess Elizabeth; and when she came to the Crown, she demised it to Sir Christopher Hatton; having had many different possessors, it finally passed to the noble family of Rivers, in which it still continues. This town, according to the late returns, contains 314 houses, and 1406 inhabitants.

On a high eminence, called *Hambledon Hill*, standing in the parishes of Child Ockford, Shroton, and Hanford, are considerable remains of an extensive fortification, which is thus described by Mr. Hutchins. "Before coming to the principal front of this work, there are two or three low ramparts, or trenches, that cross the narrowest part of the hill; the west end of which is broad and level, but then grows narrower, and ends in a point, that turns away north-west: here the ground is rugged and uneven. It is most accessible on the east, at which entrance are four or five ramparts and trenches; but the rest of the work has generally but two. Below the outer foss, on the west, is a small parapet, fronting the river Stour, that runs at the foot of the hill. It extends in length, east and west, about three quarters of a mile; its breadth is inconsiderable, and unequal, and its form very irregular, as is the shape of the hill."* Bishop Gibson supposed this camp to have been formed by the Danes; but Mr. Aubrey was informed that Roman coins had been ploughed up on the top of the hill.

This eminence is divided by a deep and narrow vale, from another on the south, called *Hod Hill*, situated partly in the parish of Stour-Paine, and partly in that of Hanford. On the summit "is an old fortification, in form of a Roman D. It consists of a double rampart and foss: on the north and south, where it is almost inaccessible, the rampart is high, and the foss deep; but on the east and west, where the hill is not so steep, they are low and shallow

* History of Dorset, Vol. II. p. 313, 1st Edit.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

low in proportion.* On the inside, at the foot of the inner rampart, are several round pits near each other. It has five entrances; two on the east, one on the west, one on the north, and one on the south: near the north entrance are two shallow ditches, parallel to each other. In the area, which consists of several acres, are many large circles, four or five yards in diameter, bounded with a shallow trench. At the north end, which is the highest part of this fortification, are some circles not unlike the Pimpern Maze, quite perfect, distinct, and curious: some will have them to be the outlines of a small detached encampment."† This Mr. Hutchins imagined to be the antagonist camp to that on Hambledon Hill.

In the parish of *Pimpern*, in a close at no considerable distance from Blandford, was formerly a remarkable piece of antiquity, called PIMPERN MAZE; a kind of labyrinth, formed of small ridges of earth, about a foot high, and extending over nearly an acre of ground. Its general form, according to the plan given in Hutchins's Dorset, was triangular; having one entrance, which led by numerous winding and irregular passages to the centre. Dr. Stukeley supposed it to be of Roman origin; and includes it in that class of antiquities called by him *Julian Bowers;* and which he imagined to have been made for the playing of a Roman game. Others, however, and with much greater probability, suppose these kind of works (of which many exist in England) to have been formed for the diversion of rustics, who, "as Randolph, a poet of the seventeenth century, expresses it—*nimbly run the windings of the maze.*" The last vestiges of Pimpern Maze were destroyed by the plough about the year 1730.

BRIANSTON, a little village, half a mile from Blandford on the west, is only remarkable for the elegant mansion of Edward Berkeley Portman, Esq. Member of Parliament for Boroughbridge. The manor came into the family of the Portmans by purchase from the last heir of Rogers, by Sir William Portman, in the reign of

* This sentence seems incorrect; but the quotation is accurate. It is most probable that the *low* and *shallow* parts of the rampart and ditch are on the *almost inaccessible* side; and the high and deep parts on the opposite.

† History of Dorset, Vol. II. p. 181, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

of Charles the Second. Sir William having married three wives, and dying without issue, this estate was devised, previously to his decease, to his cousin Henry Seymour, fifth son of Sir Edward Seymour: this gentleman married two wives, but dying also without issue, his inheritance devolved, by a further limitation of Sir William's will, to William Berkeley, Esq. of Pylle, in the county of Somerset, who, by an act passed the ninth of George the Second, was enabled to take the name, and bear the arms, of Portman.

From the mansion, a beautiful cliff extends itself to Blandford Bridge, in a semicircular direction, the river flowing in a line before it. The improvements in the walks and plantations, the woody cliff, with the river and meadows at its foot, and the town of Blandford forming a fine view before it, render this a very charming spot, and the house a most desirable residence.

This structure has "been newly built of free-stone, nearly on the site of the old mansion, from the designs of Mr. Wyatt; its dimensions are 112 feet by 100. The offices are erected in a separate building, and are very spacious and convenient, communicating with the house by an enclosed passage. The Hall, which is to the east, is 24 feet by 30, and has a large niche, or tribune, eight feet deep facing the entrance, which leads to an octangular stair-case, 30 feet diameter, in the centre of the house, with a gallery round, level with the Bed Chamber story, and communicating with all the apartments on that floor. This gallery is formed by eight scagliola columns and eight pilasters, which have, with other well-chosen ornaments, a beautiful effect. To the right of the Hall, as you enter, is an Eating Room, 24 feet by 36, and 18 high; and to the left a Drawing Room of the same dimensions. Beyond the Drawing Room, facing the south, is a *Music* Room, 25 feet by 40; and to the east end of that facing the south, likewise, is a Library, 24 feet by 30, of the same height as those before mentioned. These apartments are finished in an elegant style, and admired for their proportions as well as decorations."* In one of the rooms is a very fine painting by Stubbs, of a Tyger basking at the entrance of his den.

BLANDFORD

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 158, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

BLANDFORD FORUM,

OTHERWISE denominated *Bleneford Chipping*, or *Market Blandford*, is situated near the centre of the north-east part of the county, in a fruitful neighbourhood, on a bend of the river Stour, which flows on the south and west sides of the town. In the Domesday Book, no fewer than nine parcels are comprehended under the general name Bleneford, or Blaneford: four of these were afterwards distinguished by the appellations of Blandford Forum, Blandford St. Mary, Blandford Bryanston, and Long Blandford, or, as it is now termed, Langton.

This manor being part of the Honour of Leicester, and Duchy of Lancaster, was, in the reign of Richard the First, mortgaged for 4521. 6s. 8d. by Robert Bellomont Fitz-Parnel, Earl of Leicester, to Aaron, a Jew, of Lincoln, whose estates being afterwards seized, this manor, among others, was put into the roll for the King's use. Not long after, however, the Earl procured a discharge under the seal of Aaron, for 2401. 6s. 8d. and dying very rich, his vast estates were divided between his two sisters, Amicia and Margaret; the former married to Simon de Montford, afterwards Earl of Leicester: the latter married Saier de Quincy, afterwards Earl of Winchester, one of the twenty-five Barons who had possession of the City of London in the time of King John, and was also deputed to govern the realm; for this he, with others, was excommunicated by the Pope; and continuing disaffected, he was jointly appointed, with Robert Fitz-walter, whom their adherents styled *Marischallus Dei et Ecclesiæ*, to solicit Philip, the Dauphin, to head their army against the Sovereign. In the first year of Henry the Third, he kept the Castle of Mountsorrel for the Dauphin, and repulsed the King's friends: but being afterwards routed, and taken prisoner, at the battle of Lincoln, upon his submission, he was pardoned, and had his lands and honors restored. Soon afterwards he joined the Crusaders, and in the ensuing year proceeded, with the Earls of Chester, Arundel, and other Noblemen and Knights, to the siege of Damietta; but died on his journey further towards Jerusalem; leaving a son, named Robert, who having married Avice, sister and co-heir of Randle de Meschines, Earl of Chester and Lincoln, had by her Margaret, married to John de

Digitized by Google

Lacy, who, in her right, became Earl of Lincoln, and the possessor of this manor. His son Henry, Earl of Lincoln, the next lord of the manor, was a Nobleman of the highest consideration, being employed by his Sovereign in the most honorable commissions; his heroic actions against the French, in the reign of Edward the First, are upon record. He led the front of the army at the famous battle of Falkirk, in which the Scots were completely routed. He was also one of the noblemen to whom Edward the First left the care of his son, and the charge not to permit the return of Piers Gaveston into England. The Earl, a short time before his death, as Walsingham informs us, was compelled to represent to his son-in-law Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, the slavery of the church, and the impoverished state of the realm, and requested him to redress the various grievances of which he complained. This Earl bought the estate in the county of Middlesex, called after him Lincoln's Inn, and was a man of great piety.

Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, having married Alice, only daughter of Henry de Lacy, obtained with her the earldoms and possessions her father held; but being afterwards engaged in a rebellion against Edward the Second his relation, he was beheaded. His widow, having married Eubolo, Baron Strange, conveyed the honors and estates to her second husband, who dying also without issue, she married Hugh de Frenes. Surviving her last husband also, Alice bequeathed all her honors and great inheritances to Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, her brother-in-law. His son Henry, Earl of Lincoln, the next possessor, attended Edward the Third in all his expeditions. He left two daughters; Maud, who died without issue; and Blanch, married to John of Gaunt, Earl of Richmond, and afterwards Duke of Lancaster. His son Henry of Bolingbroke, Earl of Derby, Duke of Hereford, and afterwards King by the title of Henry the Fourth, succeeding him, this manor came to the Crown. Henry the Fifth granted this and other manors to Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, and Cardinal of the Holy See, his uncle. After this the manor reverted to, and remained in, the Crown, till Edward the Fourth granted the whole

Digitized by Google

to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third. From this period, the accounts of the descent of the manor are contradictory: part of it appears to have been made dependant on the principal manor of Kingston Lacy; and the remainder was either given to, or has been purchased by, the Corporation.

In ancient records, Blandford is styled a borough; but it sent Members to Parliament twice only. Its charter, by James the First, incorporates it a free borough, with the addition of certain liberties, besides those they had from time immemorial enjoyed. This charter confirms all courts-leet, view of frank-pledge, liberties, &c. ever enjoyed by prescription or custom. The borough is governed by a Bailiff, and six Capital Burgesses; the Bailiff, Seneschal, and two Capital Burgesses, having a power to determine suits in the borough not exceeding 10l.

The principal support of Blandford is derived from the resort of travellers, the expenditure and good neighbourhood of the surrounding gentry, its markets and fairs, and the races held annually in July or August, on a down in the parish of Tarent Monkton, which have existed since the year 1729. It has no considerable manufacture, except buttons; though formerly it was famous for band-strings, which growing out of use, the inhabitants established a manufacture of bone lace; and the finest lace or point in England, equal, if not superior to that of Flanders, and valued at 30l. a yard, was made in Blandford, till the beginning of the last century. The number of houses as returned under the late act, was 408; of inhabitants, 2326.

This town has been destroyed several times by fire. In Camden's time it was burnt down by accident, but was soon rebuilt in a handsome manner. It was again partially consumed in 1676 or 1677; and a third time in 1713: but the most destructive calamity of this kind, in its progress and effects, occurred on June the fourth, 1731, when an almost general conflagration desolated the town. The fire began at a Soap Boiler's, or Tallow Chandler's, near the centre of the four streets which composed the town, and burnt with such incredible fury, that the Church, Town-Hall, Alms-house, Free-School, and all the houses, but [illegible], were destroyed.

Digitized by Google

stroyed. The distress of the inhabitants was greatly increased by the small-pox, which raged at the time in above sixty families; but though these were removed into fields, gardens, and other places in the open air, only one died of the contagion. About fourteen aged persons, who had been forgotten in the general confusion, were found burnt, or suffocated, in the streets, or dug out of the ruins: and many died afterwards by the fatigue and terror of the day, as well as of grief for their losses. The computed damage was valued at 100,000l. The town has since recovered its former beauty, and is one of the most handsome in the West of England.

The *Town-Hall* is a neat building of Portland stone, on columns, with a regular entablature of the Doric order, neatly carved, and a pediment covered with lead. Within the building is a pump; and on a piece of marble, over the latter, is this inscription:

In remembrance
Of God's dreadful Visitation by Fire,
Which broke out the 4th of June, 1731,
and in a few Hours not only reduced the
Church, but almost the whole Town, to Ashes,
Wherein 14 Inhabitants perished,
But also two adjacent Villages:
And
In grateful Acknowledgement of the
Divine Mercy,
That has since raised this Town,
Like the Phœnix from its Ashes,
To its present flourishing and beautiful State;
and to prevent,
By a timely Supply of Water,
(With God's Blessing) the fatal
Consequences of Fire hereafter:
This Monument
Of that dire Disaster, and Provision
Against the like, is humbly erected
By
John Bastard,
A considerable Sharer
In the great Calamity,
1760.

The

The old Church having been destroyed by the fire in 1731, the present elegant fabric, 120 feet long, was raised on the ruins of the former. It is built in the Grecian style of architecture, and consists of a chancel, body, two aisles, and a tower; and was erected at the expence of 3200l. It is constructed of a greenish colored stone; but the windows, door-cases, and ornaments, are of Portland stone. The tower is eighty feet high, and is surmounted with a cupola. The interior of the Church is extremely neat: it contains several handsome monuments; and also a memorial to the parents and the brother of the Rev. Christopher Pitt, translator of Virgil, with an inscription written by him, concluding with the following beautiful lines.

Ye sacred spirits, while your friends distrest,
Weep o'er your ashes, and lament the blest;
Oh! let the pensive Muse inscribe your stone,
And with the general sorrows mix her own;
The pensive Muse, who from this mournful hour,
Shall raise the voice, and wake the string no more.
Of love, of duty, this last pledge receive;
Tis all a brother, all a son can give.

The charitable donations to Blandford are very extensive. George Ryves, Esq. by will, bearing date May 8th, 1685, left the remainder of his personal estate to purchase lands for the support of an Alms-House, which he had built here in the year 1682, for the reception of ten poor persons; and the remainder of the growing yearly profits, for the apprenticing poor boys, natives of Blandford and Pimperne. William Williams, a gentleman of this town, by will, 30th June, 1621, ordered his executors to raise 3000l. out of his estate, to purchase land to the yearly amount of 140l. for sixty years or upwards, and out of the profits to bind two poor fatherless boys to fishermen, or masters of ships, out of Blandford, Shaftesbury, and the parish of St. James, and Sturminster Newton: fourteen pounds to be yearly disbursed towards placing and clothing the said boys; and some part of that sum to provide for each of them two suits of apparel. The residue to be distributed among such clothiers, serge-makers, linen-weavers,

Digitized by Google

stuff-makers, and felt-makers, inhabiting the said towns; giving 5. at least, and not above 8l. at the most, to each. If any of these should be impoverished by fire, &c. to be relieved out of part of what is given to the tradesmen: the remainder of his goods and chattels to be employed by his executors, &c. for ten years after his decease, to procure lands or leases for so many alms-men and women as they can maintain with 5l. each yearly, for ever. Archbishop Wake, also, in the year 1729, gave 1000l. to erect a Charity-School, and for other charitable uses. Two Free-Schools have also been established here by the bequests of the benevolent.

At the east end of Blandford are the stately relics of DAMORY COURT, now a farm-house. The ancient lords of this demesne were Barons of the Realm, and held great offices under Government. Roger D'Amorie was constable of Knaresborough and Corfe Castles, governor of the Castles of Gloucester and St. Briavel: but siding with Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, against Edward the Second, and dying in rebellion, his lands were seized, though restored again to his widow. The estate came afterwards to the Crown, and by various grants to the family of Ryves, an heir of which sold the farm to Mr. Francis Kingston, of Blandford, in 1774, who left it to his great nephew, Mr. Francis Kingston Galpine. Mr. Kingston also left by will 2000l. towards building and supporting an Hospital, or Infirmary, for the county of Dorset, to be erected near Blandford. Somewhat to the north of this mansion, about the middle of the last century, stood a remarkable oak, called *Damory Oak*. In the year 1747 it measured seventy-five feet high, and the trunk was twelve feet in diameter at seventeen feet above the ground: the circumference on the surface of the ground was twenty-three feet; the hollow, or cavity, at the bottom, was fifteen feet wide, and seventeen high, and would contain about twenty persons. This oak was sold, and rooted up for fire-wood, in the year 1755.

Blandford has given birth to many distinguished characters: among the most eminent were the following. GEORGE RYVES, Warden of New College, Oxford, 1599; Vice-Chancellor, 1601; and afterwards Warden of Winchester College. BRUNO RYVES, Dean

Digitized by Google

Dean of Chichester, and afterwards of Windsor, the author of *Mercurius Rusticus*, and several other works during the Civil Wars, in which he was a great sufferer: he also assisted in publishing the Polyglot Bible; and died at Windsor, July 13th, 1677, aged 81.

WILLIAM WAKE, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born in the year 1657, and admitted Student at Christ Church, Oxon, in 1672; created Doctor in Divinity in 1689. Whilst he was Chaplain to King William, he preached a sermon before the King and Queen, in which he showed "the great difficulty of persons in high stations to be saved." The King approved of it as "a seasonable admonition to himself, and the plainest intimation of his duty and danger he had yet observed," and ordered the sermon to be printed. In 1689, he was made Canon of Christ Church, and successively Rector of St. James's, Westminster, Dean of Exeter, Bishop of Lincoln, and Archbishop of Canterbury. He died at Lambeth, 1736, and was buried at Croydon, aged 79. His conduct as a prelate was exemplary; and his many religious tracts evince a spirit of Christianity and fervor, highly estimable to the Primate's character.

THOMAS CREECH, M. A. was born 1659, and educated at Sherborne School. He was a Student at Wadham College, Oxford, where he took the degree of B. D. 1696; but being elected Fellow of All Souls, that society presented him to the living of Welwyn, in Hertfordshire, afterwards held by the poet Young. Mr. Creech's translations of Lucretius, and other classics, place him high in the republic of letters. He was a good philosopher, divine, and poet; but some disappointments in life having preyed on his spirits, in an unguarded hour he committed suicide, and deprived mankind of an otherwise valuable man.

CHRISTOPHER PITT, Rector of Pimperne, son to Robert Pitt, M. D. who was also a native, was educated at Winchester School, whence he removed to New College, in Oxford, where he took the degree of M. A. 1724. He was one of the most eminent poets of his time; and his translation of Virgil, observes Johnson, will "always be *quoted* when Dryden's is only *read*." Mr. Pitt died, and was buried here, in the year 1748.

Digitized by Google

Sir Thomas Ryves, a famous Civilian, and Judge of the Faculty, and Prerogative Court, in Ireland. John Ryves, Prebendary of Winchester and Salisbury, and Archdeacon of Bucks, 1634. John Ryves,* Prebendary of Chichester; he was sequestered by the Parliament Committee; and died 1665. Thomas Bastard, A. B. an ingenious scholar, but an unfortunate man; Vicar of Bere-Regis; being disordered in his senses, and involved in his circumstances, he was confined in Dorchester gaol, where he died, 1618. Frederick Sagittary, an eminent

* Besides the individuals of this family mentioned above, several others became eminent for their talents and learning. *William Ryves* was Attorney General of Ireland about the time of James the First, and afterwards settled in that country, where his descendants still reside. The late Eliza Ryves, author of the *Hermit of Snowden*, and for several years of the Historical department in the Annual Register, was a descendant from this branch of the family. This lady died in Store-Street, Chelsea, in the year 1797, the victim of neglect, and wounded sensibility. The following affecting stanzas, written but a short time previously to her death, will give a favorable idea of the delicacy of her feelings, and of the general tenor of her thoughts at that awful period.

A new-fallen lamb, as mild Emmeline pass'd,
In pity she turn'd to behold,
How it shiver'd and shrunk from the merciless blast,
Then fell all benumb'd with the cold.

She rais'd it, and, touch'd by the innocent's fate,
Its soft form to her bosom she press'd;
But the tender relief was afforded too late,
It bleated, and died on her breast.

The moralist, then, as the corse she resign'd,
And weeping, spring flow'rs o'er it laid,
Thus mus'd, "So it fares with the delicate mind
"To the tempests of fortune betray'd.

"Too tender, like thee, the rude shock to sustain,
"And deny'd the relief which could save;
"'Tis lost; and when pity and kindness are vain,
"Thus we dress the poor sufferer's grave!"

* Some very interesting particulars of this unfortunate writer are inserted in the fourth volume of the Monthly Magazine.

Digitized by Google

nent Physician, 1661. Dr. Thomas Lindsay, Chaplain to Henry, Lord Capel, one of the Lords Justices of Ireland; died Archbishop of Armagh, 1724, aged seventy. Edward Wake, uncle to the Archbishop, was a great sufferer in the Civil Wars; being shot in the head with a fowling-piece by the Governor of Wareham, poisoned in another garrison, imprisoned about twenty times, and deprived of his preferments; in which, however, he was re-instated at the Restoration: he was the first establisher of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy. Dr. Samuel Lisle, Chaplain to Archbishop Wake, was Archdeacon of Canterbury, Warden of Wadham College, Rector of St. Mary-le-Bone, London, and afterwards Bishop of Norwich; having been formerly Chaplain to the English factories at Smyrna and Aleppo: the inscriptions collected by him whilst at Aleppo were published by Mr. Chishull, in his *Antiquitatis Aticæ*.

Blandford St. Mary, about one mile south of Blandford Forum, was the birth-place of the celebrated antiquary, Browne Willis. He was the son of Thomas Willis, Esq. of Bletchley, in Buckinghamshire, and grand-son of Dr. Willis, one of the most eminent physicians in the seventeenth century: he was born September the fourteenth, in the year 1682, and received the rudiments of education at Beckhampton School, in Bucks, whence he was removed to Westminster. Here, from the contemplation of the tombs in the Abbey, commenced his desire for antiquarian knowledge; but grief for the loss of his parents within three months of each other, so oppressed his spirits, that an epilepsy ensued, which preyed so greatly upon his constitution, as almost to disqualify him for study. At the age of seventeen, however, he was admitted a Gentleman Commoner of Christ Church, Oxford, under the tuition of Dr. Edward Wells. On leaving the University, he spent three years with Dr. Wotton, the author of *Leges Wallicæ*; whose conversation confirmed him in the pursuit of classic and antiquarian literature. In 1702 he revived Fenny Stratford Market; and in 1705 was chosen Knight of the shire for Buckingham. Soon after his marriage in 1707, with Catherine, daughter of Daniel Eliot, in Cornwall, he built Blake Hall, at Bletchley,

Digitized by Google

Bletchley, in Buckinghamshire; and afterwards bought Whaddon Hall, with an estate of about 100l. a year, which induced him to dispose of his estates in this county. At the revival of the Society of Antiquaries, in 1717, he was elected a Member; in 1720 he received the degree of M. A. and that of L. L. D. in 1749, from his own University, to which, in 1741, he had presented his cabinet of English coins, then reckoned the most complete in England. Yet the University, thinking it too large a benefaction, considering his great family, purchased the 167 gold coins it contained for 150 guineas. After immense labor in ecclesiastical and provincial antiquity, he rose to the highest celebrity. His History of Cathedrals, Notitia Parliamentaria, and other publications, are in great esteem; and his MS. collections for Buckinghamshire, to the extent of 150 volumes, in the Picture Gallery at Oxford, are sufficient specimens of his assiduity. He died at Whaddon Hall, February the fifth, 1760, aged seventy-eight, and was buried at Fenny Stratford Chapel, which he had solicited subscriptions to rebuild, and where a monument is erected to his memory.

SPETISBURY is a large scattered village, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Stour, three miles from Blandford. On the right of the road "passing through it to Poole is a very perfect encampment, called *Spetisbury Ring*, which has been considered by some as Roman, and by others as Saxon. Its proximity to the Icenning Street (which runs about a mile distant) seems at first to countenance the former supposition; but the same circumstance induces me to think that it was constructed after the Roman times. If it had been a Roman station, the road would certainly have been made to communicate with it, either directly, or by means of a vicinal branch, no traces of which are to be perceived. Besides, the rampart is nearly circular, and several Saxon coins have been found within its area. The entrance is from the north-west."*

CHARBOROUGH, the ancient seat of the *Erle* and *Drax* families, but now of R. E. D. Grosvenor, Esq. is pleasantly situated

* Maton's Observations, Vol. I. p. 8.

Digitized by Google

seated in a little vale surrounded by hills, cloathed with wood. The house is a plain structure, built of red stone. The ceiling of the stair-case is embellished with a painting of the Judgment of Paris, by Sir James Thornhill. Over the door of a small building in the grounds, is the following inscription:

Under THIS ROOF, in the Year 1686,
A set of patriotic Gentlemen of this Place
Concerted the Plan
of the
GLORIOUS REVOLUTION,
With the immortal KING WILLIAM;
To whom we owe our Deliverance
From Popery and Slavery;
The Expulsion of the Tyrant Race of
STUARTS;
The Restoration of our Liberties;
Securities of our Properties;
Establishment of our national Honor and Wealth.
Englishmen, remember this Æra!
and
Consider that your Liberty, obtained by the Virtues
of
YOUR ANCESTORS,
must be maintained
by
YOURSELVES.
Dorset, 1780.
Thomas Erle Drax.

BERE REGIS,

An ancient but small market-town, is conjectured, by Coker and Dr. Stukeley, to have been the site of a Roman station; probably the *Ibernium* of Ravennas. This station is supposed to have been omitted in the copies of the fifteenth Iter of Antoninus, as its distance from *Vindogladia* (Wimborne) perfectly accords with the assigned distance between Dorchester and the latter. The opinion of its Roman origin is confirmed by a large circular entrenchment upon WOODBURY HILL, about half a mile north-east, supposed

Digitized by Google

supposed to have been the *Castra stativa*. The area contains about ten acres, and is inclosed by triple ramparts and ditches: in some parts, high and deep; in others, partly defaced by carriages: the summit commands a very extensive prospect. On the hill, a very considerable annual fair is held, which begins on the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, and continues through the five following days. It was formerly one of the greatest in the west of England, and vast quantities of hops, cloth, cheese, and various other commodities, were sold here; but of late years the business has much decreased.

The Manor appears to have belonged to Queen Elfrida, who had a seat here, to which she retired immediately after the murder of her son-in-law, Edward the Martyr, in order to conceal her being concerned in it. After the Conquest, King John seems to have made it his residence. Henry the Third, in the forty-third year of his reign, granted the Manor to Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester; but in consequence of his rebellion, it was again granted to the King's brother Edmund, who, in the fifty-third of Henry the Third, gave a moiety of it to the Abbess of Tarent, which the King confirmed. "The Abbess claimed, in the reign of Edward the First, to have in her Manor of Bere, a fair, market, free-warren, and the whole forest of Bere; and she had a moiety of all these, and the wood of Bere, in 1293." At the Dissolution, Henry the Eighth, for the sum of 608l. 16s. 8d. granted the Lordship and Manor to Robert Turberville, to whose family the other moiety had belonged for ages; Sir Pagan de Turberville having been one of the twelve Knights who had accompanied William the Conqueror from Normandy.

The Mansion-House of the *Turbervilles* is still standing; it is an ancient stone irregular structure, and has in the windows the various quarterings of Turberville, and of the families to which it was allied.

The market of Bere Regis is ancient, as appears from its having been confirmed to the inhabitants by King John: it is not, however, much frequented. Edward the First made this a borough town; but it does not seem ever to have been represented in Parliament.

Digitized by Google

liament. In the year 1634, most of the buildings were destroyed by fire; the damage being estimated at 70001. Forty-two houses were burnt by a second fire in 1788; at which time the parochial registers were also consumed in the vicarage house. The Church is a large handsome building, and contains several monuments of the Turbervilles, and other respectable families. The number of houses in this parish, according to the returns of the population act, was 201; of inhabitants, 936: the greatest part of the latter are employed in agriculture. The charitable donations for the benefit of the poor are numerous. The most eminent native of Bere Regis, was JAMES TURBERVILLE, D. D. who was Bishop of Exeter in the year 1555, but deprived by Queen Elizabeth.

JOHN MORTON, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal, was born in this parish. He was partly educated at Cerne Abbey, but was afterwards admitted at Baliol College, Oxford, where he proceeded L. L. D. During the civil wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster, he conciliated the favor of all parties, and was appointed Archbishop by Henry the Seventh; and soon afterwards obtained a Cardinal's hat from the Papal See. The scheme of the union between the two roses, is supposed to have been projected by him. His liberal benefactions to ecclesiastical and scholastic foundations, bespeak him a Prelate of a generous mind; though Bacon represents him as "a stern and haughty man, odious at Court, and equally disliked by the people." He died of a quartan ague, the fifteenth of September, 1500, when almost ninety years of age, and was buried, agreeably to his own request, in his own Cathedral, in a very plain manner.

MILBOURNE ST. ANDREW, about two miles north-west of Bere Regis, is an ancient Manor, which King Athelstan gave, by his charter of foundation, to Milton Abbey; but it was soon alienated; for, by the Domesday Book, it appears surveyed in three parcels, held by Matthew de Mortonia; Odo, son of Eurebold; and Swain, one of the King's Thanes. Henry the Third granted to this place a market, which has long been discontinued. After various descents in the ancient and respectable family of *Morton*, Milbourne St. Andrew devolved by marriage with

Digitized by Google

with Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir John Morton, to Edmund Pleydell, Esq. of Midgehall, Wilts, whose grand-son, Edmund Morton Pleydell, Esq. is the present possessor. The Mansion-House is situated in Milbourne Churchstone, near the Church, and is a handsome building of stone, of a square form, with two principal fronts to the west and south; it is surrounded with groves and pleasant avenues, gardens, and plenty of fine water. The Church has nothing remarkable in its structure, but contains several monuments of the families of Morton, Pleydell, and others.

In the adjoining Chapelry of *Dewlish*, was discovered, about 1740, in a meadow, a very large ROMAN PAVEMENT, nearly sixty-five paces by fifteen. The *tesseræ* did not much exceed an inch square, being white and black. A copper medal of Faustina, and an iron spur, were also found.

On a hill in this neighbourhood, near the seat of Mr. Pleydell, is an ancient *Fortification*, in form of a parallelogram, with two ramparts and ditches. Within the inner rampart, the area is nearly seven acres; and the length, east and west, within the inner vallum, is 218 paces; the breadth, 150. Towards the west end is an artificial eminence, probably the prætorium. The distance between the outer and inner vallum, on the north and west, is twenty-four paces; on the east, forty; and on the south, thirty. Both the vallums protrude on the south side. Parallel to the western entrances, about fifty-six paces from the outermost, is part of an advanced work; but this is not carried half-way towards the south. The inner vallum is high; but the ditch at its foot is very shallow at the west end. The east, north-east, and south-west angles, form the entrance of the inner rampart; though the last seems to be the principal, where the end of the inner rampart forms two semi-circles, and those of the outermost lap over one another, to make the passage more impracticable. A shallow ditch is on the south, on the outside of the outer vallum, and a low rampart beyond it.* Its vicinity to the Roman road, which, though

* Mr. Gale describes this "as a large square, oblong, single camp, with four barrows, by the highway side." MSS. 1719.

Hutchins, Vol. I. p. 85, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

though not discoverable, must have passed not far distant, and the coins and bones said to have been dug up in one of the barrows, denote it to have been a Roman encampment. Mr. Pleydell has erected an obelisk on its summit.

PIDDLETON is a large parish, which merits some attention on account of the monuments in its Church. This structure was erected about the year 1505, and consists of a chancel, body, and side aisles, together with an embattled tower: the roof is supported by five arches, over which are a series of pointed windows. The monuments are numerous, and several of them of considerable antiquity. In the arch of the south aisle, at the entrance, is the effigies of a man armed; his feet supported by some animal, now defaced; at the head an escutcheon, but the arms worn out. The person to whose memory this tomb was erected is unknown. Near the above, on a brass plate fixed in the wall, is the effigies of a man in complete armour, on his shoulders an heraldic escutcheon. Near it is the representation of the Trinity; God the Father sitting in a chair, and holding a crucifix; over his head a dove. Below is this quaint inscription.

"Here lieth the body of Christopher Martin, esquyr,
Son and heir of Sir William Martin, Knt.
Pray for their souls with hearts desire,
That they both may be heirs of eternal light,
Calling to remembrance that every wight
Must nedys dye, and therefore let us pray,
As other for us may do another day."

"Qui quidem Christopherus obiit xxii die me's Maii ano
D'ni mil'mo quingentesimo vicesimo quarto."

Under the south wall is an altar-tomb of alabaster, adorned with niches and angels, on which is the effigies of a man in armour, and a woman; both at full length. On the wall above them are seven uniform niches, in which are the same number of angels, bearing shields; but the arms are totally defaced; as is much of the painting and gilding with which the monument appears to have been lavishly decorated. There is no inscription, or other memorial, remaining, to ascertain this tomb; but it is evidently, from

Digitized by Google

from the architecture, as well as the fashion of the armour, of an antiquity equal with the Church. Just below the former, under an arch in the wall, is the effigies of an armed man, with an helmet, sword, and shield; the hands conjoined over the breast in the usual posture of praying, but the arms and inscription wholly defaced.

On a brass plate, placed under a canopy, supported by four pillars, is the effigies of a man in a gown, and three children behind him, all kneeling; and their hands erected. Opposite is a woman, and behind her seven daughters, in the same posture, together with the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Nicholas Martyn, esquyr, who departed this life, and slept with his fathers, the xviii day of March, ano M.D. LCII. and left behind to Daughters & heirs. Elizabeth, Fraunces, Jane, and Anne, whose soul assuredly doth rest with Abraham, Isacke, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven."

CERNE, OR CERNE ABBAS,

Is a small town, consisting of four or five indifferently built streets, situated in a pleasant valley, surrounded by steep hills, and watered by the river Cerne, from which it derives its name. The market was granted in the fifteenth of King John, and is well frequented. The trade of the town is chiefly confined to malting and brewing, though some hands are employed in a silk manufactory. The population of this parish was, under the late act, returned at 847; the number of houses was 165.

Cerne is only remarkable for the remains of its Abbey, which, according to William of Malmsbury, Camden, and some others, was founded by St. Augustine, whose zeal in the conversion of the Saxons to the Christian faith, is said to have induced him to visit these parts, and perform several miracles. There does not appear, however, any decisive evidence, that Augustine ever travelled so far from Kent, or that any missionary arrived in the West of England before Birinus, which was thirty years after the time of

Digitized by Google

Engraved by S. Smith from a Drawing by J.M. Upham for the Beauties of England and Wales.

REMAINS OF CERNE ABBEY.
Dorsetshire.

London Published by Vernor & Hood Poultry. May 1. 1805.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

of the English apostle. The most early intimation of any religious foundation here, that can be depended on, occurs about the year 870, when Edwald, or Eadwald, brother of St. Edmund the Martyr, King of the East Angles, greatly affected by the murder of his unhappy brother by the Danes, declined the Crown, and commenced hermit, fixing his retreat near a spring in this county, called *Silver Well*, supposed to have been produced by St. Austin. Ailmer, Æward, or Ægleward, a very rich man, venerating the memory of the pious Monarch, by the advice and assistance of the famous St. Dunstan, began to build, or rebuild, a Monastery on the same spot, in honor of St. Mary, St. Peter, and St. Benedict. This foundation he endowed with a plentiful revenue; and further enriched it with the reliques of St. Edwald, to whom the Monastery was in after ages dedicated. This endowment of Cerne Abbey seems to have been much abused and dissipated; for, before the new foundation, the house, which stood where the parish Church is now, had but three Monks of the Benedictine order.

Among the MSS at the Public Library, Cambridge, formerly belonging to Bishop Moore, is one of very high antiquity, supposed to have been the property of Cerne Abbey. It includes a collection of lessons and prayers, written in the ancient Saxon character; and, on several leaves inserted in the beginning, contains, according to the custom of those ages, particulars relating to the Abbey. It begins with grants of indulgences to the faithful visiting and offering up their devotions at the several altars here; as likewise accounts of the respective dedications, lists of the Abbey possessions, and various other particulars. Thomas Corton, the last Abbot, and sixteen Monks, surrendered this House to John Tregonwell at the general Suppression, 1539, when it was valued at 515l. 17s. 10d$\frac{1}{2}$. according to Dugdale; and 623l. 13s. 2d$\frac{1}{4}$. as Speed. The Abbot had a pension of 100l. and the Prior and Monks in proportion. The manor, demesnes, and tythes, of Cerne, which seem to have belonged to the Abbey from its foundation, were demised, together with the site of the Monastery, for fifty years, to *Philip Vanwilder*, at an annual rent of 37l. 13s. 4d.

Digitized by Google

The estate afterwards passed through several hands to the *Pitts* of Stratford Say, and is at present enjoyed by a descendant of that family.

The present remains of Cerne Abbey are not many, but are interesting. Of the Church there appear no vestiges; and we can only form a judgment of its magnitude and splendor, by the number of altars, chantries, &c. mentioned as belonging to it. The Abbey House is nearly destroyed; a chamber or two, built by Abbot Vanne, still exists; and on some glazed tiles, in a lower room, are painted the Abbey arms. These apartments form part of an ancient mansion, chiefly built out of the ruins, which Denzil, Lord Holles, afterwards repaired, and resided in. The chief fragment is the *Gate-House*, or principal entrance, which stands rather northward of the last mentioned edifice, and consists of a stately, large, square, embattled tower, of three stories, in tolerable preservation. In the lower room, which was the gate or passage on each side the east door, are two escutcheons, containing the arms of the Monastery, and those of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, "in allusion to whom, probably, the arch at the entrance ends in two large lions." Just above this gateway, or arch, are two large, elegant bow windows, reaching to the top; under each are eight pannels, containing eight escutcheons, with various arms and devices, among which are those of the Earl of Cornwall before mentioned, Fitz-James, the portcullis, (the Beaufort badge,) France and England, and the Abbey arms. The groined ceilings within, likewise, contain various armorial bearings.

The other reliques of the Abbey are, the large and magnificent stone Barn, supported by buttresses, standing at a small distance from the gateway, and which still receives the produce of the Abbey farm; traces of the ancient park and gardens, which are known by the name of *Beauvoir;* and north of these, and the Church-yard, a large square area, with double banks, and an outer ditch, which tradition ascribe to the Abbey, but which seems more considerable.

The parish Church of Cerne, dedicated to St. Mary, is a plain but elegant structure in the pointed style, with a lofty embattled

Digitized by Google

tower and four pinnacles, supposed to have been built by the Abbots, for the use of the town, about the middle of the fifteenth century. It consists of a body, chancel, and side aisles; the body rather elevated above the aisles, and enlightened by three windows on a side. Over the west door, under a canopy, is an image of the Virgin holding the infant Jesus.

From the town ascends an immense chalk hill, terminated by a mountainous prominence, and crowned by a very large oblong entrenchment, called *Trendle Hill;* on the declivity of which may be traced a gigantic figure, cut in the chalk, in the manner of the famous White Horse in Berkshire; though whether of a similar antiquity is doubtful. It represents a Man holding a Club in his right hand, and extending the other: the whole figure is 180 feet high, with the members of a proportionable magnitude. Between the legs are three letters, and above them some cyphers; but they are so rude and shapeless, that nothing can be inferred from them. Vulgar tradition makes this figure commemorate the destruction of a giant, who, having feasted on some sheep in Blackmore, and laid himself to sleep on this hill, was pinioned down like another *Gulliver*, and killed by the enraged peasants on the spot, who immediately traced his dimensions for the information of posterity. If this story be ridiculous, it is little more so than the conjectures of some antiquaries concerning the origin of the figure, which, after all, may have been merely the amusement of idleness, though most probably in a remote age. It is occasionally repaired by the towns-people.

On *Nettlecomb Fort*, a high hill in the parish of Melcomb-Horsey, is an ancient Fortification, of a square form, the area of which contains nearly twenty acres. The east and south sides are defended by a high rampart and ditch; but on the north and west, where the hill is exceedingly steep, both ditch and vallum appear to have been left unfinished. The entrance is on the east side, and is strengthened by an additional rampart. The prospect from this eminence is very extensive, comprehending the entire Vale of Blackmore, and considerable parts of the counties of Wilts and Somerset.

Digitized by Google

MELCOMB BINGHAM was formerly the property of the ancient family of *Turberville*, whose heiress married Robert, second brother of Sir William de Bingham, of Sutton-Bingham, in Somersetshire, about the time of Edward the First. Of this family was Robert, Bishop of Salisbury in 1228, a man of eminent piety and learning. The present Earl of Lucan, of Castlebar, in Ireland, is also descended from a branch of the Binghams of Melcomb.

MILTON, MILTON ABBAS, or ABBEY MILTON, is a large parish, including a village of the same name, and also the elegant seat of George Damer, Earl of Dorchester. The latter is the principal object in this part of the county, it being a magnificent pile of building, seated on a knoll at the junction of three vallies, whose sides are finely adorned with hanging woods. The grounds display great irregularity of surface; nature having thrown them into waving hills, and narrow deep vallies. The former are abundantly clothed with woods, whose massed and varied foliage gives considerable beauty to the landscape, and, with the advantage of a river winding through the vallies, the scenery would be singularly picturesque; but this auxiliary is wanting; and though vast sums of money have been expended in the attempt to fill the lower part of the valley with water, every endeavour proved ineffectual.

The Mansion occupies the site of an Abbey, which, as stated in the Abbey register, was founded by King Athelstan at the beginning of his reign. Florence of Worcester, says, the Abbey was founded in 940; but Hutchins remarks, that it was more probably finished in that year. Henry the First granted a charter, enumerating the privileges of the manor, and augmenting its revenues with ten hides of land in Stockland. Its revenues soon became very considerable;* and though it was not properly a mitred Abbey, yet the

* The live *stock* belonging to the Abbey may be seen by the following list, taken twenty-sixth of Henry the Sixth:—79 horses and colts; 217 bulls and oxen; 77 cows; 27 *boviculi*, (steers;) 17 *annates*, (yearlings;) 35 calves; 5502 *multones*, (sheep;) 129 *hurtardi*, (rigsies, or rams;) 4015 *matrices*, (ewes;) 2744 *haggastri et agni*, (hogs, sows, boars, and young pigs;) 203 capons, cocks and hens.

Digitized by Google

the Abbot was summoned to Parliament, by a particular writ, in the forty-ninth of Henry the Third, the twelfth and fourteenth of Edward the Second, and the twenty-second and twenty-third of Edward the Third. At the Dissolution it was valued, according to Speed, at 720l. 4s. 1d.

The house now called MILTON ABBEY was built by the present Earl, from designs by Sir William Chambers; who intended it to assimilate in style with the beautiful collegiate Church which nearly adjoins its southern front. It may be properly called *Gothic;* for it is neither English, Grecian, nor Roman. The incongruity of style becomes more decidedly conspicuous, from comparing it with the Abbey Church, which displays the elegant architecture that prevailed at the beginning of the fourteenth century. The mansion, with its offices, form four sides of a quadrangle, and is cased externally with a fine white stone. The apartments are numerous; many are furnished with peculiar elegance, and decorated with a collection of paintings by ancient masters. Among those which are deservedly admired, are, two Heads of Monks, by Raphael and Titian; a Sea View, by Claude; and the Feeding of the Israelites, by Bassan. On the south side of the house is a venerable old room, once the refectory, called the Monk's Hall: this has a fine oak roof, painted and gilt, with a richly carved screen, in a style corresponding to the room. The date 1498 appears on the screen; also on the cornice which surrounds the Hall.

The *Abbey Church*, now a private Chapel to the mansion, was probably built in the reign of Edward the Second, on the site of another Church, which had been destroyed by lightning, on the second of September, 1309: its ground-plan is like the Roman T, having only a transept, and choir, with side aisles. The nave, or part west from the tower, was either never finished, or destroyed at the Dissolution. The tower is square and low, rising from the intersection of the body with the transept. The interior is kept very clean and neat: it contains a few ancient and fine monuments. At the east end, behind the altar, is a stone screen, peculiarly rich, and ornamented with a number of niches, having very florid canopies, and tabernacles. On the cornice is the following inscription.

Digitized by Google

"Orate pro bono statu et animabus domini Willelmi Pin-
dlton huius Alm' monasterii abbatis ac etiam magistri
Thomae Wilken hujus parochiae vicarii et decretorum cancel-
larii qui hoc altare ad dei laudem suis honorifici * * * *
sumptibus anno incarnatione domini nostri Jhu Xti millesimo
quadringentesimo nonagesimo secundo."

On the south side of the altar are a holy-water bason and three stone seats, with ornamental canopies; and in the south transept is a beautiful octagon Font, made of Coade's artificial stone in 1791. It is executed with much taste, and contains eight small emblematical figures, placed in as many niches on the pedestal.

In the north transept is a very handsome white marble monument by Carlini, erected to the memory of LADY CAROLINE MILTON, wife of the late Earl of Dorchester. The figures of the Earl and his lady are represented laying on a couch. In the north aisle is an old monument of Purbeck marble, with some brass plates, and the following inscriptions.

Nos autem gloriari oportet in cruce Dn̄i nostri Jesu Christi.

Here lyeth buryed Sur John Tregonwell, Knight, Doctor of the Civyll Lawes, and one of the Magisters of Chancerye, who died the XIII day of January, in the yere of our Lorde 1565. Of whose soule God have mercy.

In the south aisle is a small mural marble tablet, thus inscribed:

To the memory of John Tregonwell, late of Milton Abbas, in the county of Dorset, Esq. who died June 20th, 1680, and by his last will and testament, gave all the books within this vestry to the use of this Abbey Church for ever. As a thankful acknowledgment of God's wonderful mercy in his preservation when he fell from the top of this Church is this Monument erected, at the proper cost and charges of Jane Tregonwell, his relict and executrix.

Beneath the organ gallery are two very ancient paintings on pannel, said to represent King Alfred and his Queen: but they are too badly executed to be likenesses of any human faces. As ancient specimens of the art, they may be curious; but are neither interesting, nor beautiful.

MILTON

Digitized by Google

MILTON was formerly a market-town, and consisted of about 120 houses, disposed in streets contiguous to the Abbey; but the whole have been swept away, and the site converted into pleasure gardens and shrubberies. This was effected by the present Nobleman, who erected a Church, Alms-House, and several Cottages, in a narrow valley, some distance from his Mansion. The cottages are all built on a uniform plan, each house containing two tenements, and all crowded with peasants and their children. The houses are at regular distances from each other; and to each is attached a good piece of garden ground. A public well is sunk near the middle of the village, where water (a scarce article) is obtained from a considerable depth, through a stratum of chalk. The Alms-House contains six tenements. On the outside is the following inscription:

Hæc Sedes Senectutis Reædificata est Anno Dom. 1779.

At Milton was formerly a Free-School, founded and endowed by Sir John Loder; but this charity has been transferred to Blandford. The present number of houses in the parish is seventy-two; of inhabitants, 544.

About four miles north-west of Milton is BULLBARROW, a considerable encampment, occupying the summit of a hill, which commands very extensive prospects to the north-east and west. It is nearly of a circular shape, and has two low ramparts, and one deep ditch surrounding it; with an additional foss towards the south-east. In the fields adjacent, many Roman coins have been turned up by the plough.

SHERBORNE CASTLE, OR LODGE, the seat of Edward, Earl of Digby, is a singular structure, both in external appearance, and internal arrangement. Its ground-plan resembles the Roman letter H. The House was erected at different periods, under different proprietors. The centre part, which is the most ancient, was built by Sir Walter Raleigh, whose arms, and the date 1514, appear on the windows. The Earl of Bristol added two wings to the old Mansion soon after the Restoration. The apartments contain several portraits of the Digby family: among them is a

Digitized by Google

fine three quarter length of Sir Kenelme Digby; and a family piece, wherein are represented Sir Kenelme, his wife, and two children. Here is also preserved the celebrated *Procession of Queen Elizabeth*, ascribed by Vertue to Marc Garrard, her Majesty's painter. Elizabeth is represented in an open sedan, borne by eight principal Noblemen, who carried her from London to Hunsdon House in Hertfordshire, on a visit to Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon.

The Park, which contains 340 acres, and nearly surrounds the Mansion, is justly admired for its picturesque beauty, for the variety of its grounds, its water, and the abundance of its woods. Mr. Brown was employed to examine the *capabilities* of the place; and it is but justice to acknowledge, that he greatly improved the outline of the lake, and adorned the gardens and park by some judicious alterations. One of the groves is said to have been planted by Sir Walter Raleigh, and still retains his name.

SHERBORNE.

The situation of this town is very pleasant; being partly on the acclivity of a hill, and partly in the fertile Vale of Blackmore. Its antiquity is remote, though not distinctly ascertained. Mr. Baxter endeavors to prove it the *Arianus*, or *Aranus*, of Ravennas; yet here are neither encampments, forts, nor barrows, to confirm his position. The Saxons gave it the appellation of *Scireburn*, a name implying its situation on a clear brook or rivulet.

The ecclesiastical history of Sherborne merits attention, as it was made an Episcopal See by King Ina, on the division of the bishopric of Winchester, about the year 705. Aldhelm, the first Bishop, nephew to Ina, is reported to have been a man of most extensive learning; but one of his greatest actions, according to the monkish legends, was the miracle which he wrought at the foundation of Malmsbury Abbey, when a *beam* being found *too short*, he *lengthened* it; and it afterwards retained so much of the Prelate's benediction, as to escape two fires, which destroyed the whole Abbey. Another eminent Bishop of Sherborne was the

celebrated

Digitized by Google

celebrated Asser Menevensis, who wrote the Life of the Great Alfred, and assisted him in his literary pursuits.

The See of Sherborne comprehended the counties of Dorset, Bucks, Wilts, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall; and continued to flourish till the year 904, when the three latter were separated, and united to other bishoprics, by Pope Sergius the Third, in the year 904. Herman, the twenty-sixth Bishop of Sherborne, prevailed on Edward the Confessor to remove the Episcopal seat to Malmsbury; but Earl Godwin, and the Monks, obtained its reversion. In the year 1075, however, it was finally removed to Old Sarum, in consequence of the Council at London having determined that all Bishops' Sees should be transferred from obscure places to towns of the greatest note in their dioceses.

A house for secular Canons was established at Sherborne soon after the conversion of the West Saxons to the Christian faith, and before the foundation of the bishopric, King Cenwall, who died in 672, being one of its founders: many of the Saxon Monarchs occur as principal benefactors. In the reign of Ethelred, 998, Bishop Wlfsin expelled the Clerks, and placed Monks in the Monastery, which he rebuilt. By bulls from different Popes, and charters from the Kings and nobility of England, this Abbey rose to be of such great consideration, that, though the Abbots did not sit in Parliament yearly, they were esteemed spiritual Barons, and had particular writs to Parliaments or great Councils. At the Dissolution, the revenues of Sherborne Abbey were rated at 612l. 14s. 7d¼. according to Speed and Dugdale.

The Manor of Sherborne was very early granted to the See, and continued attached to it during its successive removals; so that, as appears from the Domesday Book, almost all the villes in the hundreds of Sherborne and Yateminster constituted part of the demesnes of the Bishops of Salisbury. In the reign of Edward the Confessor it was held by Queen Editha. At this time it was of such consequence, as to be taxed for forty-three hides; being as much extent of land as the same number of horses could plough in a year. Of these the Bishop held twelve hides in his own hands; several Knights held of him twenty-two hides and a half;

six

Digitized by Google

six Thanes, or Earls, held eight hides and a half. Beside this, the Bishop had in demesne sixteen carrucates, or as much land as could be ploughed in a year by sixteen ploughs; these were never divided nor taxed. The Monks of Sherborne also held nine carrucates, which were never divided nor taxed; said to be for their immediate maintenance. What the Bishop held in demesne was valued at 50l. the Monks 6l. 10s. the Knights of the Bishop, 27l. and the rest of the land, held by the Thanes, was prized at 6l. sums in those days of very considerable value.

To evince the power which the Bishop held in the fourth of Edward the First, 1276, he proffered his service of five Knights' fees, or as much inheritance as was sufficient to maintain five Knights and their retinue, for all his land here, to be performed by certain Knights he had chosen, with ten covered horses: by the tenure also of maintaining five Knights in the King's army forty days, he, from 1286 to 1290, held the Barony in the hundred of Sherborne of the villes of Sherborne, Burton, Wotton, and Castel-Episcopi, in demesnes of the King in chief; and in 1293, Sherborne, with its hamlets, belonging to the Bishop, was valued at 190l. 16s. 2d½.

The avarice and obstinacy of Henry the Eighth, which, as the dying Wolsey emphatically observed, "*would make him sacrifice half his realm, rather than not have his way*," induced him to oblige the Bishops he promoted, to resign to him their best manors; and his favorites being all willing to second his schemes, from their anticipated share of spoil, it is no wonder that the rich and valuable possessions of the Bishop of Salisbury in this neighbourhood should attract attention. To supply the Monarch's extravagance, and his courtiers' rapacity, the fairest monuments of English architecture were demolished; and their endowments bestowed upon the arrogant, the selfish, and the undeserving. It was not, however, till the reign of Edward the Sixth, that these demesnes were obtained from the Bishop: this was effected by the threats of the Protector Somerset, who caused the infant Edward the Sixth to grant the Castle and manor of Sherborne, and several other manors, first to himself, and afterwards, in 1551, to Sir John Paulet, Lord St. John, for ninety-nine years. The

Digitized by Google

The personal virtues of Edward the Sixth exempt him from censure, though the scene of plunder was continued through most part of his reign. Under the controul of two ambitious uncles, he had it not in his power to counteract their nefarious proceedings; he was compelled to resort to his usual piety, and good intention, whilst the men who should have been the protectors of the good young King's honor, were basely contriving, with the rest of the ministry, "to reap the golden harvest of the general Dissolution; and, intent on lucrative views, now extended their robberies to the lands of Bishops, Deans, and Chapters." But in the next reign, Bishop Capon, who had been despoiled of his temporalities, appealed to the Court of Chancery, and exhibited a bill before the Chancellor Heath, Archbishop of York, against Sir John Paulet, shewing that the lease in favor of Sir John had been made by him to the Protector Somerset in consequence of threats, and in fear of his life. The cause was therefore decided in the Bishop's favor, and the lands restored.

Queen Elizabeth, with all her virtues, was possessed with some of her father's ill qualities; and in none more eminently did she imitate him than in that of rapacity. Peculation was the reigning custom; and Elizabeth having to deal with persons who, though they courted her vanity, considered their own ends, "actuated also by her father's spirit of avarice, sacrilege, and rapacity for church lands, under color of frugality of the public money, and the privy purse, she rewarded her favorites and ministers with the spoils of the Church, made great havoc among the lands of the Bishops, Deans, and Chapters, and permitted, or connived at, the depredations of her ministers, which was one of the greatest blemishes of her reign. Many rich bishoprics were kept vacant, till a person was found who would accept of them on condition of alienating some of the most valuable possessions to some courtier; which some honestly refused, and others meanly complied with. Some compensations, but very unequal ones, were indeed made, by granting appropriations in exchanging lands; all which reduced many bishoprics to such a degree, that some could not support a Bishop equal to his dignity. Many dignities in Cathedral Churches were

Digitized by Google

were totally suppressed, and their lands alienated and wasted. All this was effected even under the sanction of Parliament. Every artifice was employed, and sometimes violent means were used. The bishopric of Sarum suffered greatly. The rich manor of Sherborne, and many lands, &c. in the environs, were alienated from it. The See was twice kept vacant some years in this reign;* and these depredations continued a great part of it, till that worthy prelate, Archbishop Whitgift, put a stop to them, by a seasonable and spirited remonstrance to the Queen."†

Having, by the usual methods of threats and promises, compelled Dr. Piers to alienate Sherborne, and the other lands of the bishopric, Elizabeth granted the rectories, and advowsons of the rectories, vicarages, and chantries, to Thomas White. On the succession of Bishop Coldwell, he was induced, in 1592, to grant the manors mentioned in White's grant, except the manors of Burton and Holnest, and the rectories which are not mentioned, to the Queen, by lease for ninety-nine years, reserving a yearly rent to himself and successors of 200l. 16s. 1d. The Queen instantly conveyed the premises to Sir Walter Raleigh; and it is said that the Bishop, being *surprised* into a consent to this alienation, ever after repined at his imprudence.§ On his death, the See was offered to Dr. Tobias Mathew, who had too much virtue to receive it on Sir Walter's conditions; but Dr. Henry Cotton, being of a more pliant disposition, and contemning the *Noli Episcopari*, accepted the terms, and punctually performed them, on which he was *elected* Bishop in 1598. Sir Henry Spelman's remark on this circumstance is very severe: "The Bishop's son, though *born blind*, was made

* It appears that, from the death of Bishop Jewel to the consecration of Bishop Gheast, the See of Sarum continued in the Crown for five years; and from the death of Bishop Piers to the consecration of Bishop Coldwell, three years. *Godwin de Præsul. Angl. ed. Richardson, p.* 389.

† Hutchins's Dorsetshire, Vol. II. p. 367, 1st Edit. Desiderata Curiosa, Vo. II. lib. xii. No. 6, p. 5.

§ In Harrington's Brief View of the State of the Church of England, as it stood in Queen Elizabeth's and King James's Reign, 8vo. 1653, is a curious account of this alienation, and its consequences.

Digitized by Google

made Canon of Salisbury, possessed of three or four parsonages, yet died a beggar."* To show to what a pitch of complacency and accommodation to his superiors, this Bishop had arrived, in depriving the Church establishment of its freehold, in the forty-first of Elizabeth, 1598, Sir Walter Raleigh and John Fitz-James surrendered their respective interests in the Castle, Manors, &c. mentioned in White's lease, and also the Manor of Up-Cerne, the Hundreds of Sherborne and Yateminster not being mentioned, to the Bishop; who granted them by indenture, confirmed by the Dean and Chapter, in fee to the Queen, reserving the yearly rent of 260l. for Sherborne, and 60l. for Burton and Holnest, for ever. The Queen, in her gracious condescension, conveyed them in fee again to Sir Walter and Fitz-James; and thus completed the alienation of these lands from the See of Sarum for ever.

James the First, however, retaliated on Raleigh's unhappy family an affliction which the errors of the father had brought upon the Church. His attainder, whether unjust or not in the beginning, was certainly unwarranted in its consequence; and Sir Walter's execution at so long a period after condemnation, is a lasting blot upon James's character. But the King had his favorite Car to gratify; and Raleigh's estate was tricked away from his suffering family, merely to pamper the arrogant power of an obscure and ungrateful minion. Lady Raleigh, the daughter of the great Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, with her children, humbly and earnestly petitioning the King for compassion on her and her suffering offspring, could obtain from the King no other answer, than, "*I mun have the land—I mun have it for Car.*" Her petition thus rejected, and her misery so unfeelingly insulted, the Lady considering her high birth, and possessed at the same time with an indignant spirit, instantly fell on her knees, and, with her hands uplifted to heaven, in the bitterness of her sorrow, besought "*the Almighty to look upon the justice of her cause, and punish those who had so wrongfully exposed her, and her poor children, to ruin and beggary.*" To save it, if possible, for Sir Walter's

* History of Sacrilege, p. 279.

Digitized by Google

ter's family, Prince Henry interfered, and asked the estate of Sherborne for himself, with the intention of transferring it to Sir Walter, whom he much esteemed; he obtained his request; Car, as a compensation, receiving 25,000l. of the King: but the Prince being soon afterwards removed by death, the King had a second opportunity, which he immediately embraced, of bestowing it on the favorite. It is well known, what distress and obloquy followed Car, after he became Earl of Somerset; and that the estate, among others, being forfeited, was solicited of the Crown by Sir John Digby.

In the interim, Mr. Carew Raleigh, Sir Walter's second, and only surviving son, at that time a youth scarcely thirteen years of age, about five years after his father's death, by means of his relation, the Earl of Pembroke, was introduced to Court, to try if he could excite any compassion for his tender years and his injuries; but James, the moment he saw him, ordered him out of his presence, exclaiming, "*that the youth appeared like the ghost of his father!*" Mr. Raleigh, upon this untoward reception, was advised to travel till James's death. At the commencement of the reign of Charles the First, he presented a petition to Parliament, asserting his claim to these estates, which had been wrongfully withheld from his family. The petition having been twice read in the House of Peers, the King sent Sir James Fullerton to Mr. Raleigh, and ordered him into the presence. At the audience, the King received the petitioner very civilly; but at the same time told him plainly, "*that when he was Prince, he had promised to secure the title of the Sherborne estate to Sir John Digby, then Earl of Bristol, against the heirs of Sir Walter Raleigh; and as the Earl had given him a consideration of* 10,000*l. that now he was bound to make good his promise, being King; that therefore, unless he would quit all his right and title to Sherborne, he neither could nor would pass his Bill of Restoration.*" It was useless that Mr. Raleigh urged "the justice of his cause; that he desired only the liberty of a subject, and to be left to the law, which was never denied any freeman;" the King was resolute in his denial, and left him abruptly. Sir James Fullerton was then left to use arguments

Digitized by Google

arguments to persuade a poor young man, not twenty years of age, that submission was his only interest; urging, at the same time, the impossibility of contending with such superior power, more especially as he was not restored in blood; the inconveniencies of not enjoying any estate, and his condition, should his cloak be taken from his back, or his hat from his head. These arguments, and the splendid promises of what the King intended, were things to be considered by a friendless and indigent youth; and prevailed so far, that he submitted to the King's will; and an act passed for his restoration, and, together with it, a settlement of Sherborne to the Earl of Bristol; 400l. per annum being granted to Mr. Raleigh after the death of his mother, to whom the annuity was paid during her life.*

The merits of Sir John Digby, in his various negotiations concerning the Spanish business, had certainly the greatest claim to the favor of the King; and considering the act of attainder against Sir Walter valid, he had as much right to put in his proffer of purchase to this estate as any other; therefore, it is evident, that James alone was to blame; and it is not improbable, with all the censure which Mr. Carew Raleigh advances, that Charles the First did no more than renew the purchase of an estate already disposed of for a valuable consideration. And taking the matter in the worst light, it did not authorize Mr. Raleigh to promise for himself, and his two sons, that they would devote themselves and their interests to the service of one part of the Legislature in prejudice to the other, and by such means sacrifice public good to satisfy private resentment.† Sir

* Relation of Sir Walter Raleigh's Trouble in a Petition by his Son, Carew Raleigh, to the House of Commons. *Harleian Pamphlets, No.* 100.

† The fatality attending the unjust purchasers of this demesne, has, by some writers, been ascribed to the strange curse attached to Sherborne Castle; the following account of which may be seen in a MS. of Dr. John Moore, late Bishop of Ely, now in the University Library at Cambridge.

"Osmund (a Norman Knight, who had served William, Duke of Normandy, from his youth, in all his wars against the French King, and the Duke's (William's) subjects, with much valour and discretion) for all his faithful

Sir John Digby was a man of considerable spirit and resolution. His maintenance of the British character in Spain was so noble, and his magnanimity so great, that, being carried from village to village in the King's suite, without a proper respect to his person and character as an Ambassador, he remonstrated in such strong terms, that the Spanish courtiers were confounded, and their master declared, "*that he would not interrupt his pleasures at Lerma for any Ambassador in the World, but the*

ful services, when his master had by conquest obteyned the Crown of England, was rewarded with many gifts; among the which was the Earldome of Dorsett, and the gift of many other possessions, whereof the Castle and Baronie of Sherburne were parcell. But Osmund, in the declyninge of his age, calling to mynde the great effusion of blood which from his infancie he had sheded, he resolved to leave all worldly delights, and betake himself to a religious life, the better to contemplate on his former sinnes, and to obteyn pardon for them. And, with much importunitie, havinge gotten leave of the Kinge (who was unwilling to want the assistance of so grave and worthy a counsellor) to resign his temporal honours, and having obteyned the bishopric of Sarum, he gave Sherburne, with other lands, to the bishopric. To which gift he annexed this curse: That whosoever should take those lands from the bishopric, or diminish them in great or small, should be accursed, not only in this world, but also in the world to come; unless in his life-time he made restitution thereof:—and so he died Bishop of Sarum.

"Those lands continued in the possession of his successors till the reign of King Stephen, who took them away: whereupon (says this account) his prosperity forsook him. King Stephen being dead, these lands came into the hands of some of the Montagues, (after Erles of Sarum,) who, whilst they held the same, underwent many disasters. For one or other of them fell by misfortune. And finally all the males of them became extinct, and the Earldome received an end in their name. So ill was their success! Afterwards the lands were restored to the bishopric; but were taken away a second time by the Duke of Somerset, in the reign of Edward the Sixth: when the Duke being huntinge in the Parke of Sherburne, he was sent for presently unto the Kinge, (to whom he was Protector,) and, at his cominge up to London, was forthwith committed unto the Tower, and shortly after lost his head! The lands then, in a suit at law, were adjudged to the Bishop of Sarum, and so remained till Sir Walter Raleigh procured a grant of them: he afterwards unfortunately lost them, and at last his head also. Upon his attainder, they came to Prince Henry, by the King's gift, who died not long after the possession thereof. After Prince Henry's death, the Erle of Somerset (Car) did possesse them. Finally, he lost them, and many other greater fortunes." *Peck's Desiderat. Curios. Lib. 14th, No. 6.*

Digitized by Google

the English, nor for any English Ambassador, but Don Juan." Dugdale informs us,* that he had the grant of Sherborne to make him amends for this embassy, in which he had spent 13,000l. and that it was confirmed to him by Parliament. "His spirit," says Wood, "before the English Parliament, worsted the greatest minion" (meaning the Duke of Buckingham) "that the folly, love, or wisdom, of any King, since the Conquest, ever bred in this nation; and, through a prodigious dexterity, became the confidant both of James the First and Charles the First." He, however, sided with the Parliament against his Sovereign for some time; but seeing his error, he returned to his allegiance, and died a voluntary exile in Paris, the sixteenth of January, 1652.

The Manor still continues in this noble family, many individuals of which have done the greatest honor to their name and country. The present possessor is the Right Honorable Edward Digby, Lord Digby of Sherborne; created Earl of Digby, October the thirtieth, 1790.

After the episcopal See was established at Sherborne, the town continued to flourish for nearly three centuries; but it was at length burnt by the Danes, under King Sweyn, during his destructive march from Exeter to Old Sarum and Wilton. From this period till the removal of the See, about the year 1076, it appears to have been of very little importance, as both Matthew of Westminster, and William of Malmsbury, describe it "as a *small street*, in which was nothing agreeable in number of inhabitants, or pleasantness of situation; and that it was matter of reproach and wonder, that an episcopal seat had continued there so long."

Sherborne seems to have recovered itself very considerably in Leland's time: it was then "the most frequented town in the county; and its woollen manufacture turned to the best account; it subsisted also by all manner of trades jointly." The clothing trade, however, has very much decreased since the Reformation; and in its stead, for some time in the seventeenth century, the making of buttons, haberdashery wares, and bone lace, formed

* Warwickshire, Vol. I. p. 486.

Digitized by Google

new branches of manufacture, and employed many hands; but these trades have also decreased, having been removed chiefly to Manchester, and the other more northern towns of England. A silk-throwster settled here, and erected an engine upon Sir Thomas Lombe's plan, in 1740; and in sixteen years afterwards this business was increased so considerably, that no fewer than 500 persons were employed. It is still flourishing, and, with the linen manufacture, employs many hands: Sherborne has no other trading support, except what its market and inns produce. The number of houses, as returned under the late Act, was 589; of inhabitants, 3159: of the latter, 1381 were males, and 1778 females.

Sherborne Castle stood about half a mile east of the town, in a suburb still distinguished by the name of Castleton, to which it gives name. Few structures could be better placed, as it commanded all the adjacent vale on the north and west, and the whole ridge of hills on the south; it was protected on the northern side by a large moor, lately drained, and converted into a fertile meadow. This fortress was constructed in the form of an octagon, moated round, and over the moat were several draw-bridges. On the north side was also a subterraneous passage into the vale. It is described by Leland as standing "upon a rokky hillet," having "four great toures in the castelle waulle, wherof one is the Gate-House. Every of them hath three lodgginges yn highth. The great lodgging is yn the middle of the Castle Court, very strong, and full of voultes. There be few peaces of work yn England of thantiquite of this that standith so hole, and so welle couchid."*

The history of this structure is singular. Having been probably a castle in the Saxon times, it came into the possession of Osmond de Sels, Earl of Dorset, a Norman by birth, and a great favorite with William the Conqueror, by a gift from that Monarch. "Afterwards, upon the vacancye of the See of Salisbury, Osmond forsaking his temporal authoritie, and beinge in greate grace with the Kinge, became Bysshopp of that See, and got the Castell of Sherborne to be annexed to that Bysshoprick, settinge a curse upon them that did goe about to plucke the same from that godly use; this

* Itin. Vol. II. p. 50.

Digitized by Google

this Bysshopp was a man of that integrity and holynes that hee was canonized at Rome, and sett downe in our almanacke for a Saint.

" This Castell, with the land thereunto apperteyninge, contynued in the Bysshoppes untill the tyme of Kinge Stephen; at which tyme one Roger, then Bysshopp of Salisbury, (whoe reedyfied both the Castell of Sherborne and the Castell of the Devyzes, comonly called the *Vyze,)* being well knowne to be a Bysshopp of greate wealth, the said Kinge wantinge mony for many purposes, but especyallye for the compassinge of a mariage betwene Eustace, his only sonne, and Constancia, the French Kinge's sister, seassd upon the wealth of the said Bysshopp, tooke the Castell of Sherborne, and kepte yt. Not longe after, the right heire to the Crowne, Mawde, the Empresse, and Henry Fitz-Empresse, her sonne, invaded England with such a power, as that Kinge Stephen was dryven by composicion to make Henry Fitz-Empresse heyre apparent to the Crowne, and to disinheryt Eustace, his owne naturall sonne. After that tyme, whyle the said Castell contynewed in the Crowne, greate trobles arose to the Kinge. Sometymes the father was against the sonne, sometymes the sonne against the father; the Barons against the Kinge, and the Kinge against the Barons. From the Kinge the Castell was graunted to some of the noble race of the Mountacutes, and while they had it, two of them lost there heades successyvely, one after the other. In the tyme of Kinge Edward the Third, one Robert Wyvyll beinge Bysshoppe of Sarum, brought a writt of right against William Mountacute, Earle of Salisbury, for the said Castell, wherein he proceeded soe farr, as that theie champions were entred the lists to try the combatt. But the Kinge tooke up the matter, and ordered the Bysshoppe to give a some of mony to the Earle, which was don accordingly, and the Castell restored to the Bysshoprick. Then the same contynued therein untill the tyme of Kinge Edward the Sixth, at which tyme the Duke of Somerset gott a long lease thereof, whoe graunted the same unto Sir John Horsley, the best of his abylitye that ever was of that name in those parts. After which, within halfe a yere, the Duke of Somerset lost his

Digitized by Google

head, and Sir John Horsley declyned in his estate, untill he grew soe bare that hee was owt lawd for X^li. Kinge Edward dying, and Nicholas Heath, Archbysschoppe of Yorke, beinge Lord Chancellor of England, John Capon, Bysshopp of Sarum, exhibited a bill in the chancery against the said Sir John Horsley, shewing that the lease made to the Duke was by menaces and threats, and for feare of his liffe, uppon which bill the Lord Chancellor releeved hym, and decreed the Castell for the Bysshopp. After that yt contynewed in the Bysshoprick untill about the 33d year of Elizabeth, at which tyme Sir Walter Rawleigh gott yt, and by reason of his atteynder, yt came againe to the Crowne. And soe from the Kinge's most excellent Majestie unto our most noble and hopefull Prince Henry, who held yt not full a yere, and soe yt returned to the Crowne. Thence shortly after it came to the Earle of Somersett, with whome howe the case now standeth, let them to whome it apperteyneth judge. Since his atteynder yt is graunted to Sir John Dygbye, Vice-Chamberleyne to the Kinge. Anno Dni. 1617."

Sherborne Castle sustained all the chequered fortunes attached to similar buildings during the Civil Wars. It was one of the first that was formally besieged by the Parliament army, and one of the last that held out for the King. The leading particulars of the siege are as follows. Previously to the King's setting up his standard at Nottingham, the Marquis of Hertford, who had been forced, through the turbulence of the times, from his beloved studies, was placed at the head of a Royal army. In 1642, when attempting to raise forces at Wells, he was obliged to retire to Somerton, and to Sherborne, where he was joined by several able officers; having in the whole only 400 infantry. To this small force the Earl of Bedford opposed an army of 7000, well officered; but the Marquis kept the town against the Earl, to whom he sent a personal challenge, which was refused; and a message returned, under pretence of a treaty, and the "*godly care of avoiding the effusion of Christian blood, to desire that he might fairly and peaceably draw off his forces, and march away.*" The Marquis's answer was, "That as they came there of their own consent, they should

should depart as they could." Upon this they retreated to the distance of twelve miles, leaving the Marquis in quiet possession of the town. This advantage, however, was not lasting; for pursuing the fugitives, the Marquis's little army having been reinforced by assistance from various parts of the county, now attacked the Earl's force, and were worsted. A traditionary anecdote will, in some degree, explain the cause of the ill success of the Parliament's troops. Whilst the Earl of Bedford besieged the Castle, his sister, the Countess of Bristol, being at the *Lodge*, he sent a message to desire her to quit it, as he had orders from the Parliament to demolish the fortress. She immediately went on horseback to his tent, and told him, that "if he persisted in his intention, he should find his sister's bones buried in the ruins;" and instantly left him. This spirited behaviour for that time saved the Castle.

In the ensuing year, when the Marquis, accompanied by Lord Digby, were on their march from Oxford to Sherborne to raise recruits, Colonel Popham marched hither from Wells to prevent them. A skirmish took place in the town, which they had entered, and at the first onset proved successful to the Royalists; but in the second the Parliament's forces gaining the victory, they plundered the town, though the inhabitants laid down their arms, and pillaged the Earl of Bristol's house of all the plate, jewels, money, &c. to a very considerable amount.

In 1645, when Sir Thomas Fairfax and Cromwell had reduced Bridgewater and Bath, they determined to attack Sherborne, then under the care of Sir Lewis Dyves, being resolved to demolish Sherborne Castle, for the support which its inhabitants had given to the reduced towns. After various assaults and repulses, it was taken, and quarter given; but all the prisoners, except Sir L. Dyves and his lady, were stripped.

In the Castle were taken Sir L. Dyves, Colonel and Governor, and his lady, Sir John Strangeways, Colonel Giles Strangeways, one of Lord Paulet's sons, Sir —— Cotton, Colonel Thornhill, Colonel Fussel, formerly Governor of Weymouth for the King, besides three Members of the House of

Digitized by Google

Commons, several Commissioners of Array, nine Captains, eleven Lieutenants, three Cornets, five colors, fifty-five gentlemen of Dorset and Wilts, ten clergymen, 600 common soldiers, 1400 arms, thirty horses, eighteen pieces of ordnance, a mortar-piece, a piece called a murtherer, sixty barrels of powder, much plunder, provision, and rich household stuff. The prisoners were sent by sea to London; and Sir Lewis Dyves and Sir John Strangeways being brought to the bar of the House of Commons, refused to kneel till they were compelled, when he and Sir John were committed to the Tower for high treason. The loss on the Parliament side was considerable; for they lost two Majors, one Captain, and 200 men. This siege lasted sixteen days: on the next day, August the sixteenth, the victors kept a great market with the spoils. On the twenty-first, the Parliament ordered this spacious building to be demolished, which was completed before the following October; and out of the ruins were built Castleton Church, part of Sherborne Lodge, or Castle, and some other structures. The town also suffered exceedingly.

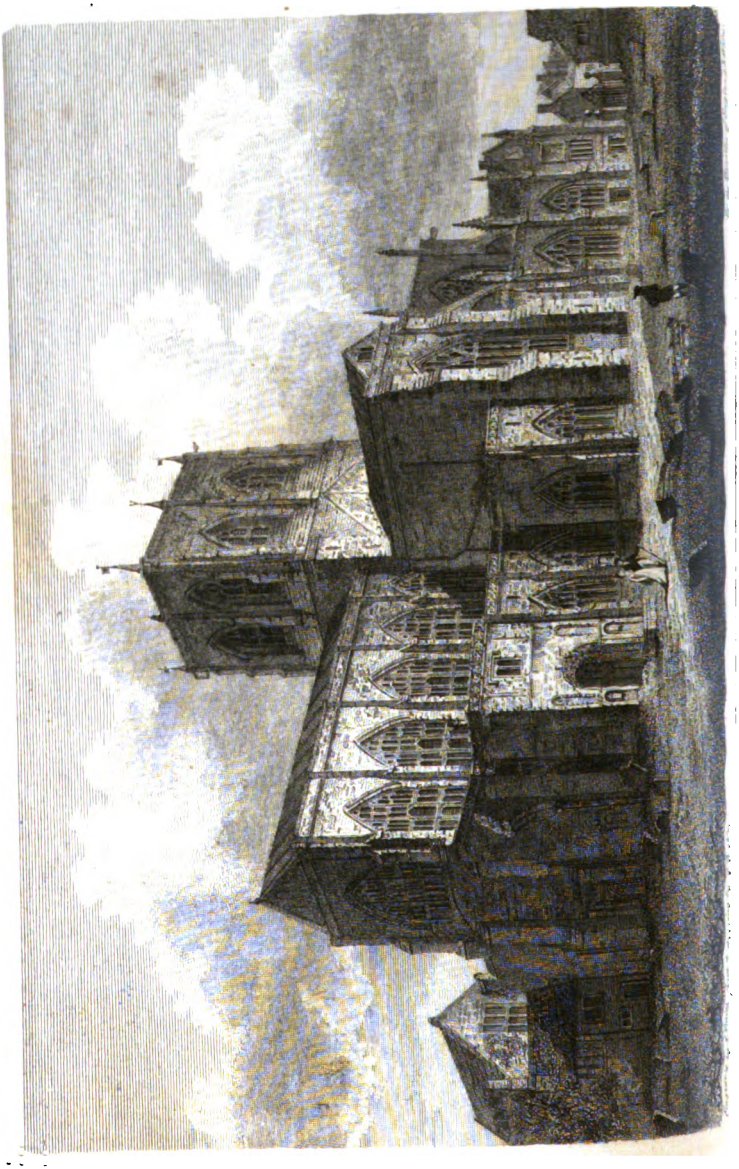
Sherborne Castle was the ancient residence of the Bishop of Sherborne; and on the removal of the See, continued to belong to the Bishops of Sarum till the reign of Stephen, about which period Dr. Maton apprehends, that the fortress whose ruins are now standing, was erected. He also observes, that it was "probably built by Bishop Roger, who constructed Castles at Devizes and Malmsbury. His edifices are described as being '*for space very large, for cost very chargeable, for show very beautiful. The stones are set in such exact order, that the joints cannot be seen, and the whole structure seems to be but one stone.*' The Castle of Sherborne was certainly in every respect correspondent to this description, as we may perceive even from its ruins."*

Henry the Third, in 1234, sent a writ to the Sheriff of Dorset, saying, he understood a *buchardicium*, or tournament, was agreed on between W. de Clifford and H. fil. Mathei, on Tuesday after the feast of St. Nicholas, at Sireburn, *through envy and revenge*; and

* Observations on the Western Counties, Vol. II. p. 10.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

and orders him to take some Knights of the county, and go on that day, and forbid to lance or to tourney.

The assizes were held at Sherborne till the reign of Edward the Fourth; but have since been only occasionally here, in cases of epidemical disorder, or other particular circumstances: at present the general quarter sessions for the peace is held in Sherborne once a year, on the Tuesday after Easter. Charters of confirmation, for the markets and fairs, were granted as early as the eleventh of Henry the Third. In 1611, so great a mortality existed at Sherborne, that, during the virulence of the distemper, from June to September inclusive, not less than 275 persons died: the average proportion of burials in the other months, was not more than seven or eight.

During the inauspicious reign of James the Second, an instance of the arbitrary power and tyranny of Judge Jeffreys was exhibited here in the execution of twelve persons, supposed to have been active in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion during the year 1685; but a more glorious scene soon manifested itself, when the Prince of Orange came to Sherborne Lodge in 1688, and being joined by George, Prince of Denmark, the Dukes of Ormond and Grafton, Lord Churchill, and the prime of the English nobility, marched to London, and laid the foundation of the Revolution, which restored civil liberty to Britain.

Vineyards occur in various records as belonging exclusively to this town and Durweston in this county; and it is so accounted in Domesday Book. The culture of vineyards, though now unpractised, was formerly very common in England, many places retaining the denomination till the present period. It seems, from an inspection into the many records of monastic foundations, that large portions of land were appropriated to this plantation, for the supply of wine to the use of the various Abbies.

Sherborne Church* is a magnificent pile of building, which, from its ornamental architecture, and magnitude, more resembles

* The annexed Print represents the west and south Sides of the Church and Tower, with part of the Free-School attached to the east End, and some Remains of the Abbey at the west End.

Digitized by Google

a Cathedral than a parochial Church. It contains specimens of different styles of architecture: in the porch and transept of the south side, and at the lower part of the west end, and north side, are some semi-circular arches, with zig-zag mouldings, characteristic of the Norman era; but the upper part of the nave, and tower, with the east end, the aisles, and some chapels, display the style of architecture which prevailed in the reign of Henry the Sixth, when the greater part of this Church was rebuilt, after a fire, occasioned through a dispute between the monks and the townsmen, and which originated in the trifling circumstance of removing the font. Leland informs us, the latter were so irritated, that a *Priest* of Alhallows shot a shaft with fire into the top of the Church, that divided the east part, which was used by the Monks, from that frequented by the town. This partition happening at the time to be thatched in the roof, was soon in a blaze, and nearly the whole Church was consumed.

The east end was quickly re-edified by William Bradforde, who became Abbot about that time; and the west end, with a Chapel dedicated to our *Lady of Bowe*, were erected by the next Abbot, Peter Ramsam, who was elected in 1475, and died in 1504. The eras of the subsequent additions are not particularly recorded; yet the uniformity of style which appears in the upper parts of the Church and Tower, imply, that it was completed in a short time after the fire:* the present fabric is built in the form of a cross, with good free-stone obtained from the neighbourhood.

The interior of this edifice is light, lofty, and spacious, having the roof supported by numerous groins, springing from the side aisles.

* The shape of the windows, and their tracery, with the abutments, and upper part of the tower, are of the same style and character as the corresponding parts of Milton Abbey Church. Its dimensions, according to Mr. Hutchins, are: the whole length, 207 feet; breadth, 102; height, 100: length of the nave, 182 feet by 32; and the height, 109. The north and south aisles, 198 feet by 15, and 24 feet 3 inches high. The transept, 202 feet long, and 102 wide. The tower, 154 feet high; its length, 30 feet by 32: the height of the body, from the paving to the vaulting, 109 feet: the whole supported by eight arches, surmounted by as many large windows on each side, in which are many remains of painted glass.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

aisles. At the intersection of the tracery work are a number of shields, bearing different arms, with roses, portcullises, and other cut devices: among them are the arms of Bishop Nevill; the initials, and rebus of Bishop Langton; and the letters H. E. connected with a lover's knot, said to be the initials of Henry the Seventh, and his Queen. The initial of Ramsam's Christian name, and his rebus, (a scroll, with the word SAM, and a large P, inclosing a ram and crosier,) are carved in many places upon the walls and roof.

In the south transept is a very superb monument, erected to the memory of JOHN, Earl of Bristol, who died in 1698; it is composed of various kinds of marble, and was constructed by J. Nost. The inscription was written by Dr. Hough, Bishop of Worcester, who was a sufferer, as well as the Earl, during the reign of James the Second.

Near this is a tablet to the memory of a son and daughter of William, Lord Digby, with the following beautiful lines by Mr. Pope.

Go, fair example of untainted youth,
Of modest reason, and pacific truth;
Go, just of worth, in ev'ry thought sincere,
Who knew no wish but what the world might hear;
Of gentlest manners, unaffected mind;
Lover of peace, and friend to human-kind;
Compos'd in sufferings, and in joys sedate;
Good without noise; without pretensions, great;
Go, live, for Heaven's eternal year is thine;
Go, and exalt thy mortal to divine.

And thou, too close attendant on his doom,
Blest maid, hast hasten'd to the silent tomb;
Steer'd the same course to the same quiet shore;
Nor parted long, and now to part no more.
Yet take these tears, mortality's relief,
And, till we share your joys, forgive our grief;
These little rites, a stone and verse receive;
'Tis all a father, all a friend, can give.

Many Chapels of ease belong to this Church; which having been both cathedral and conventual, was made parochial on the Dissolution,

Digitized by Google

Dissolution, when it was purchased by the inhabitants and the Vicar for 100 marks. In the original Church, Ethelbald, King of the West Saxons, and Ethelbert, his brother, grand-sons of Egbert, were buried.

On the north side of the Church were the cloisters and domestic buildings belonging to the Abbey. Some small part of the former remains, together with the refectory, or dining hall, which extended the whole length of the west end of the cloister, and is nearly entire, but divided into three stories, which are all occupied by machinery for the silk manufactory.

Adjoining the east end of the Church is the *Free-School*, founded by Edward the Sixth, who, in the fourth year of his reign, appointed twenty of the inhabitants to be Governors, and granted them the revenues of several Chantries, and other messuages, to hold to them and their successors, paying yearly 13l. 4s. to the Court of Augmentation. He also granted them a common seal, with power to plead, and be impleaded, &c. appointing the Bishop of Bristol visitor, and empowering them also to purchase lands to the amount of 20l. The Master and Governors of the Alms-House are feoffees, and each in their turn Warden and Governor of the School, which has two Masters, Clergymen and Graduates in one of the Universities. In the windows of the School-room are several shields in painted glass. This School has been governed by able preceptors, and has produced eminent characters. Over the door is the following inscription:

EDWARDI imperio patet hic Schola publica SEXTI Grammaticæ cupidis nobile REGIS opus.

The Alms-House, an ancient structure on the south side of the Church-yard, was originally an HOSPITAL of the order of St. Augustine. It owes its origin to the pious exertions of some of the inhabitants; and was founded and augmented by license from Henry the Sixth to the Bishop of Sarum, and others, in honor of St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, by the name of the Master and Trustees of the Alms-House for Twenty Brethren, Twelve poor infirm Men, Four Women, and One perpetual

Digitized by Google

Engraved by W. & G. Cooke from a drawing by A. Buckler.

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

ST AUGUSTINE'S HOSPITAL, SHERBORNE.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

tual Chaplain, to pray for the good estate of the Souls of the Founders. At the Dissolution, some of its revenues were alienated. The Hospital at present contains sixteen men and eight women, chosen and governed by a Master and nineteen Brethren, elected from among the principal inhabitants. It has a Chapel at the east end, in which prayers are read daily, and a sermon on Thursday mornings. The Chaplain is appointed by the Wardens. An ancient custom still exists here; every Midsummer night a garland is hung up at the door, and watched by the alms-men till next morning, in honor of St. John. In the upper room is a curious ancient painting on three pieces of pannel, inclosed by folding doors.

At the eastern end of the Church-Yard is an old gate-way, leading to the *Conduit*. This is a sexagonal building, with six large open windows, and various ornaments, erected at the expence of Sir John Horsley, whose arms appear on it.

The late eminent DR. JOSEPH TOWERS was born in this town in the year 1737; and died at Clerkenwell, in London, on the twentieth of June, 1799. He was originally bred to the profession of a Printer and Bookseller; but emerging from the mechanical processes of Case and Press, he was encouraged to literary pursuits by some Dissenting Ministers, and obtained, by intense reading, a high class in the republic of letters, a distinguished character in the annals of patriotism, and a considerable reputation as a Dissenting Minister.

Mr. Towers was chosen Pastor of a congregation at Highgate in 1774, and four years after was nominated Morning Preacher at Newington-Green, in the room of Dr. Price, appointed to the Meeting-House at Hackney. The latter gentleman, however, continued to officiate in the afternoon at his former situation; and the utmost harmony subsisted between these colleagues for many years, both in religious and political opinions. The many publications of Mr. Towers, and his bold and unabating zeal in the politics of the times, rendered him a conspicuous object of public attention; and he was admitted, in 1779, to the degree of L. L. D. in the University of Edinburgh.

His

Digitized by Google

His writings evince a series of study and toil, seldom to be met with, even in those who have dedicated their lives to literary pursuits. His principal works are all the articles of the Biographia Britannica, new edition, which are marked T; Observations on Hume's History of England; and the first seven volumes of British Biography.

WILLIAM ENGLEBERT, an eminent engineer, was also a native of this town. For his services in the year 1588, Queen Elizabeth granted him 100 marks per annum; and James the First was so tenacious of his abilities, that he would not permit him to enter into the service of any other power. He died in 1634 at Westminster.

MELBURY SAMFORD is remarkable for its Church, which is an ancient and neat pile of building, in the form of a cross, having a tower rising from the centre. It contains several ancient and curious monuments of the *Brownings*, and one of the *Strangeways*, whose family seat adjoins. The consecrated ground is defined by neat free-stone urns, on which are suitable inscriptions: the following are highly appropriate.

We trace the limits of man's last retreat,
Where good and bad, where poor lie mix'd with great,
Each with his share of sin; but each alone
For mercy trusting to th' Almighty throne.

In this small space is mad Ambition laid,
Who for itself alone thought earth was made;
Pride from her pinnacle thus low is tost;
Here every hope of Vanity is lost;
To this coarse bed is Luxury confin'd,
And Av'rice leaves her darling heaps behind.
Yet think not we encompass Vice alone,
Virtues transcendant to their rest are gone;
Bosoms that melted at each tale of woe,
And hearts forgiving of their greatest foe;
Hands open to each charitable deed,
And doubly beauteous where the claim was need.
Then, heedless wand'rer, stay thy steps, and learn,
To place in Virtue's path thy great concern;
Though all unwarm'd alike come here to lie;
The man who best has liv'd, knows best to die.

In

In the south aisle, under an arch, is an altar tomb of marble, under a canopy supported by four pillars. On the tomb is the alabaster effigies of a man completely armed, lying at length; a lion couchant at his feet. Round the verge, on a fillet of brass, this inscription:

Hic jacent Egidius Strangewaies miles, filius et heres Henrici Strangewaies, armigeri, et Dorothee uxoris sue, filie Johannis Arundel, militis: nec non Johanna uxor predict' Egid' et filia Johannis Mordant, militis. Egidius obiit die XI Decembris, mdxlvii. Cujus a'i'e. p'picietur D^s. Amen.

The noble mansion of the *Strangeways*, near this Church, was rebuilt in the beginning of the last century, on the site of one considerably more ancient, erected by an ancestor of the family, and mentioned by both Leland and Coker, as the "largest and completest" in the county. The present edifice stands on a rising ground, and occupies three sides of a quadrangle. The principal front is to the east, adorned with six pilasters of the Corinthian order; the path leading to the entrance is conducted over a stone bridge of ten arches.

"The ground around the mansion is diversified by nature in beautiful irregularity of hill and dale, of verdant pastures and venerable woods. Various trees, of great size and beauty, present themselves in every point of view. The oak and the elm distinguish themselves above the rest: of the former there is one whose circumference exceeds thirty-two feet. At a pleasing distance from the south front, the canal extends itself into the shape and size of a majestic river, whose opposite bank is clothed with a numerous assemblage of lofty forest trees. These cover the base of a hill, whose summit rises over their tops, and extends in a delightful terrace to the east and west. Hence the eye traverses an immeasurable tract of country. On the east the bold prominence of Bub Down presents the first object; and at the distance of almost thirty miles in the same line, the entrenchments at Hambledon Hill, and the town of Shaftesbury, are distinctly seen. Proceeding northwards, Bradley Knoll, Alfred's Tower, Wells' Cathedral, the Mendip range of hills, the wonderful chasm at Chedder

Digitized by Google

Cliffs, and other remarkable objects, rise to view. On the north-west are the Quantock Hills; and to the west, the eye catches the appearance of a forest, stretching to an immense distance, whose utmost boundaries reach the clouds."*

The apartments of this seat are numerous and elegant, and both them and the windows are richly adorned with the arms and different quarterings of the Strangeways, who are connected by intermarriages with some of the most ancient and noble families in the kingdom.

The Church of RAMPISHAM is an ancient fabric, but in many parts much modernized. It stands on an eminence on the south side of the village. The tower is embattled, and has a carved pinnacle on each corner. The inside has lately been repaired, but not without injury to the original architecture. In the south wall of the tower is a cavity for the *aqua benedicta;* and in the east wall are three empty niches close together. On two contiguous slabs, on the floor of the nave, are the brass figures of a man and woman, under whom is the following inscription.

Here lyeth Thomas Dygeneys and Isabell his wyfe, which were gud benefactors to this cherche, which Thomas deceassid the viiith daye of June, and the said Isabell deceassid the xxth day of Marche, in the yere of our Lord God a thousand CCCCCLXXXX.

In the Church-yard is a very curious piece of antiquity: it consists of the remains of a cross elevated on three ranges of steps, to the east side of which is annexed a long stone, like an altar-tomb; but, from the four holes in it, and in the steps, it seems rather to have served as a place to preach from, and to have been covered with a temporary pent-house, or awning. Round the four sides of the base is an inscription, much injured by time, of which only the following is legible:

Et sic dicit Porter
* In Nomine Jhu. *

Above

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 241.

Digitized by Google

Above are four compartments of Ecclesiastical History, representing, The Stoning of St. Stephen; The Martyrdom of St. Edmund, (as is conjectured;) The Martyrdom of St. Thomas à Becket; and, Two crowned figures, sitting at a long table, to which a man kneels on one knee. Over the projections, at each end of the pannels, are carved whole length figures of St. Peter, with a scroll; the cock standing on a pillar; a man sitting in the character of a fool; a Monk sitting; another fool, and another Monk, both sitting; and two men in armour, standing. At the bottom of the shaft is the word "Dirt," probably part of an inscription now erased. At a little distance from the above are the remains of two smaller crosses.

In this parish, in the year 1799, a *Tesselated Pavement*, about fourteen feet by ten, was discovered in the midst of an uncultivated common. The situation of this fragment, unaccompanied by any vestiges of building, and the largeness of the tesseræ, nearly two inches square, render it probable, that it formed the floor of an officer's tent. When discovered it was in a very perfect state; but it was afterwards broken by the ignorant neighbours, from an idea that treasure lay concealed beneath it.

In the vale between *Maiden Newton* and *Frampton*, at the distance of about 150 yards from the river Frome, a very beautiful TESSELATED PAVEMENT was discovered, in April, 1794. The broken and irregular appearance of the ground had, for many years, induced a supposition that it was once occupied by buildings, and several houses in the neighbourhood are traditionally said to have been built with large stones and flints obtained on this spot. The Pavement was discovered at the depth of about one foot from the surface, by some workmen who were searching for flints. Many of the *tesseræ* were removed from their original situations, before it was known that any thing remarkable lay concealed beneath the ground; and other parts of the Pavement are supposed to have been destroyed on the falling in of the buildings. The length of the Pavement was twenty-seven feet, and its breadth twenty. "It did not appear to have been laid out on a regular and uniform plan, like a modern carpet, but was composed of parts

parts not at all correspondent with each other, in which the artist seems to have indulged his fancy, without any regard to order, or regularity of design: but the figures were very beautiful, and in exact proportions, so that the work must have been finished when the art was in perfection. Round the whole there once went a border, which remained perfect only on one side, exhibiting dogs in chace of deer.

"The upper or north end of the Pavement was divided into nine compartments, viz. four rounds, and five squares; three of those which run in one line were almost entirely destroyed, probably by the falling in of the building; but there were six very perfect. The corner compartments were all circular, in squares, exhibiting each a human head, covered with a winged *petasus*, like Mercury, and holding a twisted stick. The square compartments of the square, with that in the centre, were perfect: one of them gave the figure of Mars in a Roman dress, standing by a tree; his right-hand uplifted, and holding a flower, like that held by Spes on coins; his left holding a spear. The next, or centre compartment, represented Bacchus, having his right-hand raised above his head, and holding a bunch of grapes; and his left, a thyrsus. The third compartment in the same line contained the figure of Apollo with a flowing mantle, and in his hands a spear, with which he was encountering Python; a serpent twisted round a tree, with its mouth pointed towards the spear, and brandishing its tongue with great fury. The compartment that remained perfect on the west side, between the two heads, exhibited Neptune with his trident, which he seemed in the act of darting against some winged sea-monster, that reared its fore feet against his knee.

"The lower or south end of the Pavement consisted of one grand compartment of nearly equal extent with the nine compartments in the upper end; but the subject could not be ascertained, on account of the injury which it had received from the workmen. In a part of the circle which went round this compartment, several sea-monsters, cows, horses, boars, &c. particularly a dolphin, were plainly to be perceived, in very excellent preservation. The tesseræ of the Pavement were about the size of modern dice; there

Digitized by Google

there were some on the extremity of the work of double this size; but these were only intended as a kind of termination to the ornamental border, and exhibited no kind of figures. The colours of the tesseræ were black, blue, red, yellow, and white; the white were of marble, the red were of brick."*

During the visit of their Majesties to Weymouth, in the year 1797, they honored this spot with inspection; the Pavement being a second time laid open by a detachment of able miners, acting under the direction of Mr. Samuel Lysons. "It had been greatly injured by the frost; but there was enough remaining to make out the ornaments with accuracy, and some of the compartments were entire. At a little distance from this Pavement, clearly within the limits of the same building, after the departure of the Royal visitors, he discovered another, of a greater extent, but mutilated like the first. The edge, or border, was chiefly ornamented with fish and chequer work; the figures in the centre were nearly of the same size and fashion with those in the other Pavement, which exhibited a head of Neptune, surrounded with two dolphins. What is very remarkable (and seems to ascertain the age of the building) in the border, on the south side of this Pavement, was the figure of a Cross, that bears a striking resemblance to the *Labarum*, or military standard of Constantinople, and ascertains it to be a work of the Lower Empire."† There were also remains of two barbarous Latin inscriptions, in very fair characters.

"Adjoining this Pavement, but not in a direction with the former, was a passage covered in like manner, but with tesseræ of a larger size, disposed in stripes, and not in figures, like those of the

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 249, 2d Edit. In a portico belonging to the gardens of Commodus at Rome, "was a very grand Pavement of this kind, in which was represented a solemn procession of the votaries of Isis carrying the sacred vases. The Emperor Commodus seems to have headed the procession, accompanied by his friends; amongst whom occurred Pescennius Niger, who succeeded Commodus in the empire, represented carrying some of the sacred vessels *(sacra)* of Isis. By this it should seem that the art of mosaic work extended to taking portraits."

† Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 250, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

two rooms. From an opening which has been made between the two rooms, there were evident traces of another passage; and in all probability other larger Pavements might be discovered, as the inequality of the ground shows the buildings to have been of great extent.*"

WOLVETON HOUSE, in the parish of Charminster, is the ancient and magnificent seat of the *Trenchard* family. It was built by John, father of Sir Thomas Trenchard, during the reign of Henry the Seventh. The ancient carvings, and painted glass throughout the premises, are objects of great curiosity. The windows contain nearly a complete pedigree of the family. The house is very irregularly constructed. It was here that the fortunes of the Russel family commenced; Sir Thomas Trenchard having sent for his relation, John Russel, Esq. to attend and entertain the Arch-Duke of Austria, King of Castile, who had landed at Weymouth in a storm; and who afterwards recommended Mr. Russel to the favor of Henry the Seventh.

KINGSTON HOUSE, in the parish of Stinsford, is an elegant and stately seat of William Morton Pitt, Esq. It was erected in 1720, and forms a long square, 101 feet by 62. Its situation on a rising ground, opening towards the north into a fine down, renders the views very agreeable and romantic; and being also ornamented with plantations, and on the great Western Road, its appearance is very striking. The walks are laid out with taste and judgment; and the old canals, &c. formed into one *grand* reservoir, interspersed with islands, planted with variegated trees and shrubs. In the year 1794, the house was faced with *Portland* stone, and other improvements made.

About one mile west of *Winterbourne Abbas* is a *small Circle* of nine erect stones; the diameter of the area is twenty-eight feet. The

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 251. 2d Edit. "A drawing of this Pavement, taken by scale by Mr. James Englehart, was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries, February 26th, 1795. Mr. Lysons, about two years after, when he opened the remainder of the Pavement, took accurate drawings of the whole, which he proposes to publish in nine plates. He found the first discovery so injured, that he was obliged to supply half the figures by an outline from Englehart's drawing."

Digitized by Google

The sizes of the stones are all unequal; the largest being seven feet high, and three feet broad; the smallest scarcely one foot, either in height or breadth: the general thickness is about three feet. In the vicinity, within the circuit of a mile, are several other erect stones; some of which were supposed, by Mr. Aubrey,* to form part of another circle; and on the surrounding Downs are a great number of Barrows, of various size and description: round several is a shallow trench. Dr. Stukeley observes, that "the adjacent Downs are much fuller of Celtic Barrows than Salisbury Plain; and hereabouts is an endless fund of Celtic and Roman inquiries."†

WINFORD EAGLE, in the parish of Toller Fratrum, is celebrated as the birth-place of the great SYDENHAM. This eminent Physician was born in 1624, and became a Commoner of Magdalen Hall in 1642, but left Oxford when it was made a garrison, and retired to London, where Dr. Cox observing his eminent abilities, encouraged him to study physic; on which, returning to Magdalen Hall, he was, at the Pembrochian creation, made M. B. in 1648, though he had no previous degree; and Fellow of All Souls College, by the Parliament visitors, in place of an ejected Royalist. When he quitted the University, he settled in Westminster, and was honored by the degree of M. D. at Cambridge. From the year 1660 to 1670, he was the most eminent physician in London. He was famous for his cool regimen in the small-pox, (which his greatest adversaries were compelled to follow,) for his method of giving the bark in agues, and for his administration of laudanum. The high opinion he entertained of the latter medicine, obtained him the name of *Opiophilos*. Dr. Sydenham died at his house in Pall Mall, on the 29th of December, 1689. His character is comprised in the concluding lines of a Poem written to his memory by Dr. Crane of Dorchester.

Ah! envy not, ye nations round, our claim,
Whate'er it adds of lustre to our fame;
Th' exclusive right 'twere needless to contend,
"The world his country, and mankind his friend!"

* Monumenta Britannica, Part I. Chap. I.

† Hutchins. Itin. Curios. I. p. 153.

Digitized by Google

"In a ground called *Fern Down*, on the road to Bridport, a Barrow was opened by the orders of Mr. Sydenham, the owner of the manor. Upon the first removal of the earth, they found it full of large flints; and at length came to a place like an oven, curiously clayed round, and in the midst of it a fair urn, full of very firm bones, with a great quantity of black ashes. Digging further, they met with sixteen urns more, but not in ovens; and in the middle, one with ears. They were all full of sound bones, and black ashes." It appears that the gentleman under whose directions the above discovery was made, was much imposed on by a pretended account of an extraordinary heat felt in the oven on opening it, which circumstance has since been totally disproved.

EGGERDON CAMP, situated on the brow of Eggerdon Hill, is a large and strong fortification, nearly of an oval form. Its area, including the ramparts, comprises a compass of forty-seven acres and a half; and within the ramparts, twenty acres and a quarter. The diameter from the inner east to the inner west rampart, is 1380 feet; the breadth is about 720 feet. Its diameter from the south-east to the north-west entrance, is 1386 feet; and from the north-west to the south-east, 749 feet; having but two ditches, and two ramparts, on the north and east sides, each about 30 feet asunder. On the west side are three ramparts, and two very regular ditches; but the ramparts on the south are irregular, having been almost destroyed. The slope on the outside of the first rampart is 45 feet; on the inside, 23: the second slopes to the extent of 53 feet and a half on the outside; and on the inside, 29 feet; the height differing in various parts. A small hillock appears at a little distance on the south side, probably the prætorium; there being a similar mount within the Camp at Poundbury. Within the centre of the area is a tumulus, flat on the top. An earth-bank continues from the south-east to the north-west entrance, and divides into two parts; this is surrounded by tumuli. A small ridge, from east to west, divides the camp, and seems to have been formed at a later period; probably, to distinguish the property of the two owners of the camp; the soil on the north side of the ridge belonging to the liberty of Poorstock, and the family of

Digitized by Google

of Powlet; and that on the south, to Higher Eggerdon Farm, and the Chafin family. Eggerdon Hill is partly in Askerswell parish, and partly in the parishes of Litton and Poorstock. The situation makes the eastern end of the camp point rather south-east, and the western, of course, north-west: at each of these points are two large entrances, and the ends of the vallum lap over each other. The hill extends beyond the western end of the camp nearly a quarter of a mile, and then terminates in so sharp and steep a point, that the ascent is very difficult. A road passes on the north side, at the bottom of one of the ditches, leading from Poorstock to Maiden-Newton; and, for the sake of this road, the ramparts at each end seem to have been opened. A vicinal way appears to have borne off towards Abbotsbury Castle; as in the fields near Ashley, relicts of a paved stratum have been discovered in ploughing. About half a mile from the camp, at Lower Eggerdon Farm, are several springs of water, which never cease; and at Askerswell, at about a mile and a half distance, is a clear stream constantly flowing. From this stream up to the south-east entrance of the camp, is an open road over a fine down.

The position and form of Eggerdon Camp assimilate with those of Maiden Castle; except that this being upon higher ground, commands a more extensive prospect. At six miles distance, appears an open view of the sea, and of the Devonshire coast. A firm Roman road, at eleven miles from Dorchester, is very perceptible, and uninterrupted, in a straight line entering on the south-east side of the camp. These circumstances concur in establishing this to be of Roman origin; corresponding with the rules which, according to Vegetius, were observed by the Romans in the forms of their *stativa castra*.

BRIDPORT

Is situated in a deep miry soil, in a vale surrounded by hills, a mile north from the sea, between two small rivulets, one of which runs under the east, the other under the west, Bridge. Its

Digitized by Google

name is derived from the river Brit, which falls into the sea near the harbour.

Bridport seems to have been a very considerable town before the Conquest, as it is thus noticed in the Domesday Book. "In Edward the Confessor's time, here were 120 houses, subject to every service to the King, and paying geld for 5 hides, viz. to the use of the King's domestics *(Huscarles)* ½ a mark of silver, except the customs pertaining to the farm of one night for one night's lodging. Here was one mint-master, who paid to the King one mark of silver, and 20 shillings on the charge of coinage. Now there are but 100 houses, and the remaining 20 are ruined, that the inhabitants are unable to pay the tax. In Brideport, the Bishop of Saresburie has half an acre, yielding 6d. The Church of St. Wandregisil holds the Church of Bridetone, Brideport, and Witcerce; and to these belong four hides, yielding 6l." The Manor anciently belonged to, and was held of the Crown in fee-farm by the Burgesses, to whom it now belongs.

Bridport received its charter of incorporation from Henry the Third, who granted "to the men of Bridport, that the village should be a free borough; and that they and their heirs should hold it, with all liberties, &c. paying yearly to the Exchequer at Michaelmas, the farm which they usually paid, and 40s. for the increase of the village: also that they may chuse one or two Bailiffs, who shall answer at the Exchequer for the farm, and increase of the borough.* Several succeeding Monarchs confirmed the charters; and James the First limited their privileges, by granting, that the Bailiffs shall be annually chosen, and that the Corporation shall consist of fifteen Burgesses, the Bailiffs being two of that body, with power to chuse a Recorder," &c. The charter now in force, was granted by Charles the Second. The earliest return to Parliament was made in the twenty-third of Edward the First. The right of election is in the inhabitant householders, paying scot and lot. The number of voters is about 160.

Bridport

* From this clause, and similar expressions in charters, may be accounted the rise of several corporations, who customarily chuse Bailiffs, and receivers of the fee-farm; these by degrees commenced general officers, or governors of towns. Hutchins, I. 379, ad Edit.

Digitized by Google

Bridport does not seem to have been noticeable for any historical transaction, it being a place of inconsiderable strength, and as such, was alternately the quarters of the Royal and Parliament troops during the Civil Wars; and during the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, several excesses were committed by his forces. In 1685, the town exhibited a solemn scene to the inhabitants, by the execution of twelve persons for their concern in that rebellion.

This town is large, and has a very respectable appearance; many of the houses being new brick buildings. The principal streets are broad and spacious. The number of houses, according to the late act, was 288; of inhabitants, 3117. The latter are principally supported by the manufacture of seins, and nets of all sorts, lines, twines, and small cordage; as well as sail-cloth. Large quantities of these articles are exported to America, and the West India Islands; but the greater part is consumed in the Newfoundland and British fisheries; it being computed that upwards of 1500 tons of hemp and flax are worked up annually; and that nearly ten thousand hands, of both sexes, and of all ages, are constantly employed in it. This manufacture was so flourishing in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that cordage for the whole English navy was ordered to be made exclusively here, or within five miles.

A handsome Market-House and Town-Hall has been erected in the centre of the town, on the ruins of an old Chapel dedicated to St. Andrew. Here were formerly several religious foundations and chantries, no relicts of which now appear. Here are also a Charity-School, three Alms-Houses, and a Gaol. The Church is a large, ancient pile of building, in the form of a cross; the tower in the centre of the structure is adorned with pinnacles and battlements. Within the Church is an altar-tomb of grey marble with this inscription:

Hic jacet Willi'mus, filius Elizabet' de Juliers Comitissa Rancie, Consanguine' *Philip * * *

* "Philippa, Queen to Edward the Third, and daughter to William, Earl of Henault, died 1369. The King, to oblige her, created her kinswoman's

Digitized by Google

The haven is situated at the mouth of the river Brit, a mile south of the town. It does not appear that Bridport was of any consequence in maritime affairs; and although several attempts have been made to make it a port, they have all proved ineffectual. "The cliffs here are composed of sand, though the surrounding country is covered with lime-stone, full of shells. The height of the cliffs is in some places nearly 200 feet; and they contain belemnitæ, and other fossils; besides pyrites, gypsum, hepatic ore, &c."*

GILES DE BRIDPORT, consecrated Bishop of Salisbury, March the eleventh, 1256, was, according to Leland, "caullid Britport, because he was borne" in this town. "He kyverid the New Cathedrale Chirch of Saresbiri thoroughout with leade. This Egidius (or Giles) made the College *de Vaulx* for Scholers betwixt the Palace waulle and Harnam Bridge. Part of these Scholers remaine yn the College at Saresbiri, and have two Chapeleyns to serve the Chirch ther, beyng dedicate to St. Nicolas. The residew studie at Oxford. The scholers of Vaulx be bounde to celebrate the anniversarie of Giles, their founder, at the paroch Chirch wher he was born. He was a great helper to performing of the Cathedrale Chirch of Saresbiri. He builded the fair stone bridge caullid Harnam, at Saresbiri, and so was the high-way westward made that way, and Wilton way lefte to the ruine of that towne."†

BEMINSTER, OR BEAMINSTER,

Is a town of considerable antiquity, situated on a fertile spot, on the banks of the river Birt. In the Domesday Book, the manor forms part of the lands of the Bishop of Sarum; one of whom, Bishop

husband, Earl of Cambridge. William, here buried, was son of Sir Eustace Dabrigecourt, Knight, second son of the Lord Dabrigecourt, in Henault, and of Elizabeth, daughter of Gerard, Earl of Juliers, and widow of John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, who died without issue, and was son of Edmund of Woodstock. *Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p* 385, *2d. Edit.*

* Maton's Observations, Vol. I. p. 74. † Itin. III. 82, IV. 28.

Digitized by Google

Bishop Osmund, in the reign of William Rufus, gave it, with the Knight's fees, to augment two of the Prebends of his Church. The Prebendaries accordingly held, and were esteemed its Lords, till the year 1649, when it was seized by the Parliamentary Commissioners, and passed into other hands: but in 1767, it was suffered to revert to the Prebendaries, in whose possession part of it still remains.

The only history of any importance that attaches to this town, respects its sufferings by fire, and the destructive sword of civil war. A record of the former is preserved in the blank leaf of an old bible in the possession of a gentleman of the town, and is as follows. "Memorandum, that the towne of Beaminster was burnt on Palme Sunday, being the 14th day of April, and in the year of our Lord 1644. At the same time, Prince Maurice being in the towne seven dayes before the fire, and there continued till the fire burnt him out of his quarters. The fire was first kindled in John Sergeant's house in North Street; it was a musket discharged in the gable, and it was wild fire, and the winde directly with the towne; so the whole towne was destroyed in two hours; and those goods for the most part which were saved out of the fire were carried away by the soldiers. There were seven score and four dwelling houses, besides barns and stables, burnt. In the whole it was eleven hundred and fifty-four bays* of building. The whole loss was valued by men of judgment, and did amount unto in all, one-and-twenty thousand and fourscore pounds at least; and my own loss was adjudged two hundred and ten pounds."

The following year it is described by an eye witness in the army of Sir Thomas Fairfax, as "a place of the pityfulest spectacle that man can behold, hardly an house left not consumed by fire; the town being fired by some of the enemy in five places at once, when Prince Maurice was there, by reason of a falling out between the French and Cornish."

The inhabitants soon after received from the Parliament 2000l. with which, and other sums, they rebuilt the town: but in June 1684, it was again consumed, when the loss amounted to nearly 10,000l.

* *Bay* is a local term for the division of a barn or other building; being generally from fifteen to twenty feet in length, or breadth.

Digitized by Google

10,000l. The last time it fell a prey to this destructive element, was in March 1781, when, in the course of three hours, upwards of fifty dwelling houses, besides barns, stables, and other buildings, were reduced to ruins. Great part at this period was, however, fortunately insured; and the contributions of the benevolent to those who had not taken that precaution, soon restored every thing, with additional splendor.

Beminster makes a very respectable appearance; many of the houses being modern and good buildings: the number, as returned under the population act, was 337; that of inhabitants was 2140; the latter are chiefly employed in trade and manufacture. The principal public buildings are the *Chapel*, the Free-School, and the Alms-House. The former is a Chapel of ease to Netherbury, and is a stately structure; the tower is nearly 100 feet high, and is ornamented with carvings from scripture history. Within the Chapel are several handsome monuments of the *Strode* and other families.

The *Free School* was founded by Mrs. Frances Tucker, in 1684, for the education of twenty of the poorest boys in Beminster, three or four of whom are to be bound apprentice every year; and one, at least, if not two, to be apprenticed to the sea. The Rev. Mr. Samuel Hood, father of the Lords Hood and Bridport, was master of this school in 1715; he was afterwards Prebendary of Wells, and died in 1777. The *Alms-House* was built, and amply endowed, by Sir John Strode, of Parnham, Knt. for the maintenance of six poor persons: the Workhouse is a very commodious building.

Beminster gave birth to that most learned, though temporising Prelate, THOMAS SPRAT, Bishop of Rochester. He was born in 1635; and having entered at Wadham College, 1651, after various promotions, was consecrated Bishop in 1684. "It appears, from his writings, as well as his conduct, that his principles were far from being stubborn: he has represented Cromwell as a finished hero, and Charles the First as a glorious saint."*

By accepting the commission for ecclesiastical affairs in 1686, he incurred the censure of all true friends of the Church of England,

* Hutchins's Vol. I. p. 455, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

land, the foundation of which the King was endeavoring to destroy. When, however, the Bishop discovered that the King's aim was the subversion of law, liberty, and justice, he refused to comply any longer, and resisted the Royal command, to read the famous Declaration for *Liberty of Conscience*, and thus preserved his dignity in the Church. In the year 1713, he died of an apoplexy, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a monument is erected to his memory on the south side of the nave. His History of the Royal Society, of which he was an early member, his Charge to his Clergy, his Sermons, and his Account of the Poet Cowley, are excellent performances. To sum up his literary character in the words of Mr. Granger, " his style in general, which has been greatly applauded, has neither the classic simplicity of Hobbes, nor the grace of Sir William Temple. His poetry is unequal, and sometimes inharmonious. He has, however, been justly ranked with the best writers in the reign of Charles the Second."*

This place gave birth also to the late Rev. THOMAS RUSSELL, Fellow of New College, Oxford: he was the son of an eminent attorney at Bridport, and died July 31st, 1788, aged 26. His literary knowledge, both ancient and modern, was extensive; and Warton is greatly indebted to him, as being one of the greatest advocates in defence of his History of Poetry. A small collection of Mr. Russell's " Sonnets, and Miscellaneous Poems," in quarto, was published at Oxford, after his decease, dedicated to Dr. Warton, of Winchester, under whom he had been educated.

PARNHAM, near Beminster, the mansion of Sir William Oglander, Bart. came into his family by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Strode, in 1699, and is a large and ancient structure. The Hall is a noble room, having in its windows and walls, arms of all the matches of the family. A pane of painted glass has the arms, with the name of " John Strode, 1449," painted in the window. The Withdrawing Room contains an original portrait of THOMAS CROMWELL, Earl of Essex, and another of his son GREGORY, Lord Cromwell. The Gallery is ornamented

* Biographical History, Vol. IV. p. 292.

Digitized by Google

mented with various portraits of the *Strodes*, of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

At *East Axnoller*, in this neighbourhood, out of a hill of the same name, issue three springs; the Axe, which falls into the sea at Axmouth; the Birt, which falls into the former stream; and the Simene, falling into the sea near Bridport.

The Vale or Forest of BLACKMORE, otherwise *White Hart* Forest, comprehends a large tract in the northern and western parts of the county, and derives its first name either from the nature of its soil, a deep strong and black clay, or from the dark aspect of its woods, and its moist and moorish appearance. The name of *White Hart* was given to it from the following event, related by Camden and Coker. "Henry the Third hunting in this Forest, among several deer he had run down, spared the life of a beautiful white hart, which afterwards Thomas de la Lind, a neighbouring gentleman, of ancient descent and special note, with his companions, hunted, and killed, at a bridge since from thence called King-stag Bridge, in the parish of Pulham. The King, highly offended at it, not only punished them with imprisonment, and grievous fine, but severely taxed all their lands which they then held, the owners of which yearly, ever since to this day, pay a sum of money, by way of fine, or amercement, into the Exchequer, called White Hart Silver, in memory of which, this county needeth no better remembrance than this annual payment." Leland says, "this Forest streached from Ivelle unto the quarters of Shaftesbyri, and touched with Gillingham Forest, that is nere Shaftesbyri."

LEWESDON HILL, in the parish of Broad Windsor, has been the subject of a beautiful poem in the manner of Thomson, by the Rev. William Crowe, Public Orator of the University of Oxford, and formerly Rector of Stoke Abbas. "The poet is supposed to be traversing the summit on a May morning, and surveying the surrounding objects of Pillesdon Hill, Shipton Hill, Barton Cliff, and Eggerdon Hill."*

From

* Hutchins's Dorset.

Digitized by Google

From this proud eminence on all sides round,
Th' unbroken prospect opens to my view,
On all sides large; save only where the head
Of Pillesdon rises, Pillesdon's lofty Pen;
So call, (still rendering to his ancient name
Observance due.) that rival height south-west,
Which like a rampire bounds the vale beneath.
LEWESDON HILL.

PILLESDON PEN is a remarkably high hill, a mile north from the village. On its eastern limit, near the turnpike road leading from Broad Windsor to Furzemoor Gate and Lambart's Castle, is a large and very strong Entrenchment, encompassed with a triple rampart and ditches, excepting on the eastern summit, where the natural ascent is so steep, as to have rendered the camp inaccessible. The form of this Camp is nearly oval, being adapted to the shape of the hill on which it stands. Fuller, in his Worthies of England, mentions a proverbial saying current here;

" as much a-kin
As Lew'son Hill to Pil'son Pen;"

which was spoken of such as have vicinity without acquaintance. The two hills are within a mile of each other, and form eminent sea marks: the seamen denominate one the *Cow*, and the other the *Calf*, from their imagined resemblance to those animals when beheld from a distance.

Lambart's Castle Hill, in the parish of Whitechurch Canonicorum, is of vast height, in the form of a Roman D, fortified on the top with triple trenches and ramparts; and has three entrances. The area within the ramparts forms a circumference of twelve acres.

CHARMOUTH is a small ancient village, deriving its name from its situation near the mouth of the river Char. It lies at the foot of an exceedingly steep hill; and is supposed, by Mr. Baxter, to be the *Carixa* of Ravennas. In this vicinity two considerable battles were fought between the Danes and Saxons. The first occurred in the year 833, according to the Saxon Chronicle;

Digitized by Google

nicle; though some historians have placed it in 831, and others in 832. Their whole force has been conjectured as amounting to upwards of 17,000 men; who, after a desperate contest, obliged the Saxons, under King Egbert, to retreat with great precipitation; yet the Danes, fearful of another attack, returned to their ships with as much celerity as if they had been defeated. The second battle was fought in the year 840, when the Danes were opposed by King Ethelwolf; and though, after a very obstinate engagement, they remained masters of the field, they quickly retreated to their ships, as before, without plunder. Charles the Second, on attempting to escape into France, after the battle of Worcester, had very nearly been discovered through the circumstance of Lord Wilmot, one of the King's party, stopping to have his horse shod in this village. The manner in which the old shoes were fastened, excited the Blacksmith's suspicion that the riders came from the north; and the alarm being spread, the King was pursued, and very narrowly escaped being taken.

"In August, 1531, after very hot weather, followed by sudden rains, the *Cliffs* near Charmouth began to smoke, and soon after to burn, with a visible but subtile flame. The same phenomena were observed at intervals, especially after rains, till winter: the flame, however, was not visible by day, except the sun shone, when the cliffs appeared at a distance, as if covered with pieces of glass, which reflected the rays: at night the flame was visible at a distance; but when the spectator drew near, he could perceive only smoke. On examining the Cliffs, a great quantity of martial pyrites was found, with marcasites, that yielded near a tenth of common sulphur, *cornua ammonis*, and other shells, and the belemnites, all incrusted with pyritical matter. These substances were interspersed in large masses through the earth, which consisted of a dark-coloured loam, impregnated with bitumen to the depth of forty feet. There was also found a dark-coloured substance, like coal cinder, which being powdered and washed, and the water slowly evaporated to a pellicle, its salts, which shot into crystals, appeared to be a martial vitriol."*

LYME

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. I. p. 527.

Digitized by Google

LYME REGIS

Is situated on the little river Lyme, whence it derives its name, lying near the sea, on the West Bay, and on the extreme borders of Devonshire, in a cavity between two rocky hills:* its situation on a declivity makes it difficult of access; and as a singular contrast, the part of the town nearest the sea is so very low, that, at spring-tides, the under rooms and cellars are overflowed to the depth of ten or twelve feet. The houses are constructed with a bluish rag-stone, not very durable; and are covered with slate. The number, as returned under the population act, was 276; that of inhabitants, 1451.

The river Lyme rises above Up-lyme at two miles distance north, passes through the middle of the town, on a bed of rocks, dividing it into two parts, and then falls into the sea near the fort at the Cobb Gate.

The earliest historical account of Lyme relates, that Cenwulf, King of the West Saxons, who died in the year 784, granted, in a charter to the Church of Sherborne, "the land of one Mansion near the west bank of the river Lim, and not far from the place where it falls into the sea, so that salt, for the said Church, should be boiled there, for the supplying of various wants." Lyme is surveyed in Domesday in three parcels; one belonging to the Bishop of Salisbury, a second appertaining to Glastonbury Abbey, and a third held by William Belet, one of the King's servants: in these portions were comprised fourteen *Saltmen's habitations.*

Edward the First granted Lyme the liberties of an haven and borough; and from that period it increased in buildings, and became so prosperous, that it was able to furnish Edward the Third with four ships, and sixty-two mariners, for the siege of Calais. In

* The engagement between the English fleet and the invincible Spanish Armada, in 1588, commenced in sight of the hills above the town, and was continued till the fleet of the enemy approached Portland Race; when the enemy's ships having received considerable damage from our fire, they were compelled to keep closer together; and for that time the English relinquished the pursuit.

Digitized by Google

In the reigns of Henry the Fourth and Fifth, the southern coast was much annoyed by French incursions: this town severely experienced their effects; and being also afflicted by other casualties, its trade declined considerably. In Camden's time it was hardly reputed as a sea-port, being then only inhabited by a few fishermen. When Coker wrote, it had regained some portion of its former credit, and had been enriched by the convenience of its *Cobb;* but towards the close of the seventeenth century, it was again reduced; but is once more recovering its importance through the residence of merchants, who have lately erected some handsome stone houses; and as the harbour is deemed one of the best in England, the town might be benefited by manufacture, the adjoining land being capable of great improvement; and if the inhabitants were to be encouraged in their ancient ingenuity of making salt, a revenue might be established in these days of speculative improvement, which would place Lyme in a respectable state of independence.

During the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles the First, Lyme was a place of great importance to the contending parties, especially to the Royalists, great part of the dependance on the West of England, arising either from the taking or being repulsed from this town; as, jointly with Poole, it commanded all the south coast to Topsham; so that no supply could be sent, nor any trade carried on, but by the Parliament agents, who at this time were masters of the sea. The siege of Lyme* was one of the most remarkable that occurred during that unhappy period.

The

* The garrison had much infested the Royal quarters in the neighbourhood, and had made frequent excursions to the very walls of Exeter. These were important motives for besieging Lyme. The command of the expedition was entrusted to Prince Maurice, assisted by Lord Paulet, Sir John Stawel, Sir John Berkeley, and other brave officers, with 2500 Royalists, who carried on the blockade with the greatest courage and resolution; whilst the garrison, consisting of about 1100 men, under the command of Colonel Thomas Ceely, the Governor, assisted by Lieutenant Colonel (afterwards Admiral) Blake, defended their post with amazing resolution, and enthusiastic courage, aided by the seditious harangues of at least twenty-five fanatical preachers, who boldly pronounced

Digitized by Google

The Duke of Monmouth landed June the eleventh, 1685 at Lyme, on his ill-fated contention for empire with James the Second. He had left Amsterdam on the twenty-fourth of May, with three ships, one of which was a man of war of thirty-two guns, in which were most of his men: two tenders accompanied the ship, containing arms and ammunition for 4 or 500 men. Ford, Lord

ced salvation to those of their party who should fall in the contest. Thus inflamed by the vapors of disaffection and enthusiasm, even the women contributed their part; they did duty on the works, and, by their example and encouragement, inspired the soldiers, whom they supplied in ammunition and refreshment, with an unusual degree of vigilance, and unabating zeal.

In Rushworth's Collections, Vol. V. p. 337, the following particular account of this remarkable siege is given in the Earl of Warwick's Letter to the Lords, dated May 30, 1644. "Coming before Lyme, I found the town under a very close siege, and in great want of victuals and ammunition; though Captain Somersted had spared them 35 barrels of powder, a good quantity of bisket, and other provisions, besides some victuals delivered 'em by Captain Jordan and Captain Jones. I sent them 38 barrels of powder, and some match, and contracted for near 400l. worth of corn, malt, butter, cheese, &c. they not having two days bread left. The night before my coming, the enemy burnt near 20 barks, and some the night following. Saturday last I had a letter from Captain Ceely, the Governor, praying a supply, without which they could no longer maintain the siege. I was fully informed of the gallantry of the defendants, being about 1100 men, who, tho' they wanted shoes and stockings, and were kept on continual duty, yet they resolved to hold out to the utmost; and when all fail'd, to make way thro' the enemy with the sword. Their condition and courage so wrought on my men, that they unanimously consented to give 'em one of their next four months bread, and to bate it out of several days allowance; they also spared them boots, shoes, stockings, clothes, and some victuals.

"Monday last, in a council of war, we resolved to spare them 20,000 weight of bread more, a hogshead of beer, another of pork, and some shot. The same day the commanders in Lyme desired some of the seamen to guard their line, while the garrison sallied out on the enemy; and we sent them 300; but, instead of giving a sally, they received a storming, wherein about sixty of the enemy, and but eight of the town, were slain, and a few wounded. The garrison being encouraged by this success, resolved to sally out, their provisions being short, the soldiers spending about 1200 weight of bread a day, and there are about 4000 people in the town. In pursuance, therefore, of the former resolution, I sent the 300 men, and resolved, before the sally, to send all our

ships'

Digitized by Google

Grey, afterwards Earl of Tankerville, with a Genoese Count, accompanied the Duke, together with such officers and gentlemen as had fled into Holland for refuge, from punishment or persecution, during the last inquisitorial reign. The winds were so contrary, and the sea so tempestuous, that this little armament was nineteen days at sea; but escaped the King's fleet, which had been sent out to intercept it. Upon his landing, near the Cobb, without opposition, the Duke set up his standard, and, though eight

ships' boats mann'd, as also the *Expedition* and *Warwick* frigate, to ply to and again on the east shore; hoping, by an alarm there, to draw off the enemy's horse, and perhaps some of their foot. Accordingly four or five troops, and some hundred foot, continually attended the motion of our boats.

"The enemy, it seems, mistook our purposes, conceiving our boats had drawn off some of the garrison to land them on the east shore, for getting provision, or falling on their rear: so that supposing the town weakened, they made three assaults; in the last of which they came on as bravely as could be, and were as gallantly received. The fight continued with extreme violence for two hours, there being a continual volley of great and small shot. There fell of the enemy 400; and but six or seven of the garrison were slain and hurt. I hope some speedy course will be taken for their relief: their fidelity, and courage, God has much honoured; and 'tis pity, by delay, to hazard the least blunting of their resolution. If Lyme be lost, 'twill have a very ill influence, the inclination of these parts depending on the success of that town; which the enemy values not so much for itself, as for the men in it, who, if at liberty, will get a strength together, which the country will be well disposed to close with."

On the receipt of this intelligence, both Houses voted a letter of thanks to his Lordship; and ordered "that 1000l. per annum, out of the Lord Pawlet's estate, should be conferred upon the town for their good service; and that pecuniary satisfaction should be given to the inhabitants for their losses by the siege." The assaults, however, still continued; and Prince Maurice made many gallant attempts to storm the town; but on the fourteenth of June, having information that the Earl of Essex had advanced to Dorchester, he raised the siege, and at two in the morning drew off his great guns, and marched part of his army to Bristol; whilst himself, with the other division, proceeded to Exeter; having altogether, a body of 2500 foot, and 1800 horse, which furnished his enemies with a censure against his reputation, for having lain so long, with so considerable strength, before so apparently untenable a place, without reducing it. Rushworth, Vol. V. p. 339, informs us, "that, agreeably to the report of the inhabitants, in all this long and desperate siege, they lost not above six-score men; whilst, one way or other, the besiegers lost nearly 2000, whereof several were commanders, and persons of note."

Digitized by Google

eight o'clock in the evening, his Declaration was read in the market-place.

The King, having received an account by express, on the thirteenth, from the Mayor, of the Duke's landing, sent a force to oppose him; and on the same day Lord Grey surprised Bridport; but his soldiers plundering the town, they were repelled by the inhabitants, assisted by the King's troops. The Duke staid at Lyme till the next day, the interval being spent in enlisting and delivering out arms; and here he was joined by two young gentlemen of the name of Hewling, Mr. Speke Battiscombe, Colonel Joshua Churchill, and some other persons of repute. On the fifteenth in the afternoon, having mustered nearly 4000 men, the Duke marched towards the west; and commenced the campaign which proved so destructive to him, and to his unfortunate adherents.

The event of the fatal Battle of Sedgemore destroyed the Duke's hopes, and involved his partizans in confusion, imprisonment, and proscription. The King, tyrannical from disposition, and bigotted from principle, despised that God-like privilege of the Crown, forgiveness, which, at the same time that it dignifies the Monarch, elevates the man; and resolved to take ample vengeance on all who had either directly or indirectly assisted the Duke. Instead of exercising the moderation which would have fixed his power, he deputed, as the instruments of his barbarity, two of the most unprincipled and savage miscreants that ever disgraced the English annals.

Jeffereys and Kirk are names that ought to sink into oblivion; yet, as they are too much connected with history to be forgotten, it is creditable to the humanity of the country, that they are never mentioned but with horror. The first was certainly *officially* justified, as far as the law directed, to try such as had been guilty of rebellion; but the train of dreadful massacre which attended his bloody judicature, in the persons of Kirk and *his lambs*, are instances of human malignity, that will ever reflect reproach and disgrace on *Jeffereys's campaign*, as James denominated these satanical proceedings.

Digitized by Google

The inquisitorial assize commenced at Winchester, where Mrs. Lisle, a widow of extreme age, was condemned, after a verdict of *not guilty* three times by the Jury; and by means of Jeffereys's threats, a fourth pronounced her guilty of high treason; and she was beheaded for concealing two persons; one a stranger; the other not mentioned in any proclamation.

At Dorchester, Jeffereys informed the prisoners, that those who pleaded *guilty* would have more favor; whilst those who pleaded *not guilty*, if proved otherwise, would receive no commiseration: this he called his *shortest way* of ridding the business. Deceived by his assertions, many pleaded *guilty* to the indictment; but were treated with the same inhumanity as those who refused. The scene that followed is better conceived than expressed, except it be in the witticism of Jeffereys himself, who boasted, with sarcastic pleasure, "*That he had hanged more men than all the Judges of England since William the Conqueror!*" Bishop Burnet affirms, that no less than 600 were executed by Jeffereys's judicature, and their quarters set up in the various towns and highways.*

Lyme witnessed the execution of twelve of these victims, viz. William Hewling† of London, Lieutenant of foot, aged nineteen: his

* The Court publications of the time are curious specimens of the adulation which was paid to an undeserving Monarch. After reciting the condemnation of 251, sixty-seven of whom were executed in different parts of Dorsetshire, one of the papers alluded to, concludes thus: "By this it is to be perceived, how much loyalty and obedience is to be preferred before disloyalty and stubbornness; how much a calm and peaceable, exceeds a restless and unsatisfied disposition; such a one as predominates in these kind of people, whom no mildness can win, nor favours oblige, *even to be kind to themselves;* for what more can be expected by subjects, than to live *in peace* and *tranquillity* under a *gracious* Prince, whose *benign* influence dispenses to all good men, an entire satisfaction, encouraging them chearfully to proceed in those measures that continue and increase their good repute and felicity," &c. *A further Account of the Proceedings against the Rebels in the West of England, September the Seventeenth*, 1685. *Licensed by Sir Robert Le Strange.*

† This unfortunate youth, and *Benjamin*, his brother, were the *sons of an* eminent Turkey Merchant in London, who, at his death, left them to the care of their mother, and their maternal grandfather, Mr. Kyffin, also an eminent Merchant

(his elder brother, Benjamin, Captain of horse, was executed at Taunton, on the thirteenth of September, and buried in Taunton Church, aged twenty-two.) Christopher Battiscombe, Esq. Colonel Holmes. The Rev. Sampson Lask, Captain of horse. Dr. Temple, of Nottingham. Captain Marders, Constable of Crewkherne. Captain Robert Matchet. Captain Kidd. Messrs. Josiah Askew, John Hays, Leonard Jackson, and Henry Watts.

Lyme was made a Borough in the twelfth of Edward the First, at the time that the manor, by various descents, was vested in the

L l 3 Crown.

Merchant of the same city. Both the families were Protestant Dissenters, the latter being of the Anabaptist persuasion.

William, the youngest of the brothers, was educated with the utmost care, and having been sent into Holland to improve his education, or probably to escape the cruel persecution which pursued the Non-Conformists in the reign of Charles the Second, imbibed all the zeal for what he esteemed the Protestant interest, which urged a supposed right to depose James the Second; and to accomplish this, he, as well as his brother, joined the Duke of Monmouth's standard at Lyme, and bore the rank of Lieutenant at the battle of Sedgemore, where he behaved with great gallantry.

After the defeat and dispersion of their undisciplined army, the two unfortunate young men continued together, and took the first opportunity of putting to sea; but being driven back by contrary winds, with difficulty they gained land by climbing over the rocks. The prospect before them was as melancholy as the dangers they had just escaped; the country was filled with soldiers, and those who had been levied to seize on Monmouth's partizans; they therefore surrendered themselves to a gentleman, whose house was near the place at which they landed: hence they were conducted to Exeter prison, on July the twelfth, 1685: on the twenty-seventh they were put on board the Swan frigate, and conveyed to the Thames, and taken to Newgate, where they were loaded with irons, and treated with the greatest inhumanity. After three weeks confinement, they were removed to Salisbury, where they were separated; Benjamin being removed to Taunton, where he was tried and executed, with circumstances of peculiar barbarity: William, not nineteen years of age, passed Jefferey's sanguinary ordeal at Dorchester, and being, of course, condemned, was executed with others at Lyme, September the twelfth, in the same year.

Hutchins, in his History of this county, observes, that "of all the unhappy victims that died in the west, none were more pitied than these two brothers. Their youth, their beauty, their being the only sons of their mother, and she a widow, their extraordinary piety, resignation, even excessive joy, at their approaching fate, made all men look with horror at a throne, which, instead of being

Crown. That Monarch, by his Charter, dated at Abercorway, granted, "that the Town of Lyme be a free Borough, and the Men to be free Burgesses; and that they have a Merchant Guild, and other Liberties, and free Customs throughout England, which have been granted by his Predecessors to the Burgesses of Melcombe Regis, and Citizens of London, relating to mercantile Affairs." In the twenty-seventh year of the same King, Lyme was assigned as a dower with his sister Margaret, Queen of Scotland.

It

being that of mercy, was not only that of severe justice, but excess of cruelty. The people, as if to reflect upon the flintiness of the Sovereign's heart, strove who should most express their pity and regard for them whilst *living*, and when dead; and when the body of the subject of our memoir was deposited in Lyme Church-Yard, it was attended by 800 persons, accompanied by some of the most fashionable young women in the town; though it was only the day following his untimely death, and no invitation or preparation made. The dignity and acquiescence in God's providence under these misfortunes, and the cruelty of their deaths, made a great impression upon all sober men; and the outrages committed in the west, more than any thing contributed to overthrow the throne of a tyrant, which he had discoloured with the blood of so many of his subjects, to gratify an unsatiable cruelty."

When Hannah Hewling, the sister, presented a petition to the King in behalf of her brothers, she was introduced by Lord Churchill, (afterwards *Duke of* Marlborough;) and whilst she was waiting in the ante-chamber for admittance, his Lordship assured her, that she had his hearty wishes of success to her petition;—"*but, Madam,*" added he, "*I dare not flatter you with any such hopes, for that marble is as capable of feeling compassion as the King's heart.*" But James could not help feeling. When in his distress he applied, in a fawning manner, to Mr. Kyffin, the grandfather, for his assistance in supporting a tottering crown, and to induce him, had inserted his name in the charter proposed *to be restored to* the City of London. "*Sire,*" said the affected old gentleman, "*I am a very old man, and have withdrawn myself from all kind of business for some years past, and am incapable of doing any service in such an affair to your Majesty or the City; besides, Sire,*" fixing his eyes stedfastly upon the King, whilst the tear of anguish trickled down his cheeks, he added, "*the death of my grandsons gave a wound to my heart, which is still bleeding, and will never close, but in the grave!*" James was deeply struck by the manner, the freedom, and the spirit, of this unexpected rebuke. A total silence ensued, while the galled countenance of James seemed to shrink from the horrid remembrance. In a minute or two, however, *he recovered himself* enough to say, "Mr. Kyffin, I shall find a balsam for that sore;" and immediately turned about to a Lord in waiting.

Digitized by Google

In the reign of Richard the Second, the town was so distressed by sea inundation, that the few remaining townsmen petitioned for a remission of their farm-rents and tythes.

The town procured the same remission from Henry the Fourth and Fifth, in consequence of suffering by the assaults of the enemy, who burnt and destroyed it. The inhabitants had a similar grant from Edward the Fourth, on account of their distressed situation. Henry the Eighth, desirous that the town might, by encouragement and exertion, reinstate itself, granted to the inhabitants great privileges, which his daughter Elizabeth confirmed; and by a new charter of incorporation, bestowed many additional immunities. Further liberties were granted by James the First and Charles the First.

The Corporation consists of a Mayor, who acts as Justice in the years before and after his mayoralty, Recorder, Town-Clerk, and fifteen capital Burgesses, two of whom, with the Mayor, are Justices of the Peace. The royalty of the manor is now vested in the Corporation, as it was formerly in the townsmen. Lyme has sent Members to Parliament since the twenty-third of Edward the First. Among the Corporation officers are an indefinite number of freemen, who are elected and admitted to the freedom of the borough by a majority of the Mayor and capital Burgesses; in these is the right of election for Members of Parliament: the voters amount to about thirty.

The Church is a neat, though ancient, edifice, but is not particularly remarkable. The Custom-House is a modern brick building, supported on pillars, for the convenience of the Corn Market, which is held beneath. The Quay is commodious, though not spacious; and round the harbour are several small forts, mounted with cannon for its defence. The principal public structure, however, is the *Cobb*, which, in its ancient state, was composed of vast pieces of rocks rudely piled on each other; but is now formed of stone, laid with mortar and cement. This is a fabric of the greatest importance on this coast, there being no other shelter for shipping between the Start Point and the Portland Road: and although at this place the south-west wind blows with extreme violence,

Digitized by Google

vessels ride in the harbour in perfect security. The Cobb has, however, suffered very much by these winds. It was totally destroyed in the reign of Richard the Second; and in 1741 and 1744, by storms, it sustained immense injury; but was repaired in 1748, at a great expence, to which Government contributed 2000l. It was also much damaged in 1762, but repaired by the Government at the expence of 4000l. Charles the Second allowed 100l. per annum out of the customs of the port towards its repair, which is still continued; and the inhabitants annually chuse two Cobb Wardens to superintend its improvements.* The port has a Collector, Customer, and Comptroller, with inferior officers; but they have not much employment. The profits of the harbour belong to the town; and on account of the constant

* Some curious particulars relative to the Cobb occur in North's Life of Lord Keeper Guildford, p. 11. "The Cobb at Lyme is situated in the cul (as they term it) of a bay, where there was no river or land-lock provided by Nature, and of all places upon the coast of England, least to be suspected for a good port. It is about two furlongs from the town, and so named from the cobble-stone of which it is composed: an immense mass of stone, of the shape of a demi-lune, with a bar in the middle of the concave. The stones are not wrought with any tool, nor bedded in any cement; but being all pebbles of the sea, are piled up, and hold by their bearings only; and the surge plays in and out through the interstices of the stone. As the best cemented square stone will scarce hold against the surge, it often decays; but there is warning enough to repair and prevent any great ruin of it; for sometimes a swamp appears upon the flat top where they walk; and when that is perceived, they take down all that part, and build it up from the bottom; and nothing less will prevent the downfall of much more, as the sea rages more or less against it. And it may happen that some new foundation stones are to be laid; these are the largest that can be got upon the coast, and mounting them on casks chained together, with but one man mounted upon them, who, with the help of a pole, conducts it to the place where it is to lie, and then striking out an iron pin, away go the casks, and the stone falls into its place.

"The vessels are laden and unladen by horses going upon the sand between the Cobb and the town: they have no drivers, but are charged with bales at the warehouse, and trot away to the ship's side, and stand fair, sometimes above the belly in water, for the tackle to discharge them; and then they return to the warehouse for more; and so they perform the tide's work, and know, by the flood, when their labour is at an end."

Digitized by Google

constant attention necessary for maintaining the repairs of the Cobb, Lyme is exempted by Act of Parliament from contributing to the repair of Dover Harbour.

Among the many eminent persons who were either born or distinguished themselves at Lyme, the following seem most deserving of notice. JOHN CASE, many years a noted practitioner in physic and astrology, lived in the reign of James the Second. Granger observes, that he was "looked upon as the successor of the famous Lilly, whose magical utensils he possessed. These he would sometimes expose in derision to his intimate friends; and particularly, the dark chamber and pictures, whereby Lilly used to impose upon people, under pretence of shewing them people who were absent." The Doctor is said to have got more by this distich than Dryden did by all his works:

Within this place
Lives Doctor Case.

He was doubtless very well paid for composing that which he affixed to his pill-boxes:

Here's fourteen pills for thirteen pence;
Enough in any man's own con-sci-ence.

This physician was living in the reign of Queen Anne; as the late Mr. ——— of Canterbury mentions an anecdote that occurred when Dr. Maundy of Canterbury, Dr. Case, and Dr. Ratcliffe, were at supper together. Ratcliffe drank to Case, "Here, brother Case, to all the fools, your patients." "I thank you, good brother," replied Case; "let me have all the fools, and you are heartily welcome to the rest of the practice." The Doctor acquired a handsome fortune by his professions, and setting up his carriage, affixed under his arms, this quaint motto, *The Case is altered.*

THOMAS CORAM, the benevolent patron and contriver of the Foundling Charity, was born at Lyme about the year 1668. Having an early attachment to a maritime life, he became master of a trading vessel to America, and in the course of his occupation,

Digitized by Google

tion, occasionally took up his residence in the eastern part of London, where he had many opportunities of witnessing scenes of distress; but none which affected him more forcibly, than the lamentable situation of exposed and deserted young children. His zeal for the public welfare, and the shocking spectacles he had too often witnessed, induced a plan one of the most compassionate that human nature ever witnessed; the erecting of an asylum for the succour and education of the neglected innocents, known by the name of the *Foundling Hospital.* To accomplish this purpose, he had to obtain the patronage of the great, and the assistance of the powerful; he had also to combat that vast of all difficulties, popular prejudice; he had to convince the public, that the plan he suggested, would, instead of encouraging vice, as it was pretended, be a public benefit, by preventing the many secret murders, urged by fear of reproach, which disgraced the policy, and stigmatized the civil economy, of England.

To the immortal honor of the female nobility of that time, be it recorded, that they seconded Mr. Coram's plan, and drew up a memorial, which ought to be held by the public in lasting veneration. Thus assisted, Mr. Coram relinquished every occupation, but that in which his mind was thus engaged. The nobility and gentry, urged by the endeavors of twenty-one noble and virtuous females, obtained for Mr. Coram, a Charter of foundation; and he had the happiness of living to see his object accomplished, after laboring seventeen years.

He was highly instrumental in promoting other good designs; and spent so great a part of his income in serving the public, with so little regard to his private concerns, that, towards the latter part of his life, he was supported by a pension of something more than 100l. a year, procured for him by the late Dr. Brocklesby and Sir Sampson Gideon, from some of the public spirited nobility, at the head of whom was His present Majesty's father, Frederick, Prince of Wales. It may be remarked, in proof of the amiable disposition of Mr. Coram, that when the Doctor applied to this good old man, to know whether his setting on foot a subscription for his benefit would offend him, he thus nobly answered:

"*I have*

Digitized by Google

"I have not wasted the little wealth of which I was formerly possessed in self-indulgence, or vain expences, and am not ashamed to confess that, in my old age, I am poor." This memorable man died at his lodgings near Leicester Square, March 19th, 1751, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, and was interred, pursuant to his desire, in the vault under the Chapel of the Foundling Hospital, where an elegant inscription perpetuates his memory.

"At CHILCOMB, near Abbotsbury, on the top of a hill, is a large Fortification, 1330 feet by 672, the area of which is several acres. It has a single low rampart and a shallow ditch; in the middle two or three small barrows. The entrances are on the north and south; the form is square on the north, oval on the south, and irregular on the east and west. The hill is very steep, but accessible on the north and south. It commands a very extensive prospect, and is one of the most spacious camps in this part of the country."* This encampment is conjectured to have been made by the Saxons. Its advantageous situation for viewing the sea-coasts, its form and extent, but particularly its narrow foss, shallow, circular, and of great circumference, exactly according with others constructed by that people to repel the frequent invasions of the Danes.†

ABBOTSBURY

Is an inconsiderable market-town, once celebrated for its magnificent Abbey, from whose Abbots it is said to have derived its name; though this is doubtful; particularly if any credit is attached to the register of the Monastery, which asserts, that it was called *Abodesbyri* by St. Peter himself, in the very infancy of Christianity; and consequently long before the introduction of Monachism. It is situated in a valley, surrounded by bold hills, at the distance of about a mile from the sea shore, and consists of a single parish, divided into three streets, nearly in the form of the letter Y. The buildings are of stone: the number of houses in the township is 173; of inhabitants, 778: the latter obtain their principal support from the fishery. The

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 294, 2d Edit. † Ibid.

Digitized by Google

The chief objects of curiosity in and about Abbotsbury, are the remains of the Monastery, the Chapel or Chantry of St. Catherine, the Decoy, and the Swannery. The ABBEY, once so splendid and extensive, is now so far decayed and demolished, that it is difficult to trace the arrangement of its parts. The ruins consist of a large Barn; the Gate-House, or principal entrance; a portion of the walls; a large stable, supposed to have been the Dormitory; a ruinous porch, which apparently belonged to the conventual Church; and two buildings, conjectured to be the Malt-house and Brew-house. The Barn, which is very ancient, was, when entire, among the largest in the county, and was built on a singular plan, being surrounded by a parapet, communicating with turrets at its angles. Only half of it is now used; the walls of the other part remain in a less perfect state, though beautifully patched with ivy. The Church, which contained the remains of the founders, Orcus and his wife, with many other eminent personages, is totally destroyed, except the above-mentioned porch, and a large heap of ruins under some elms at a little distance: its splendor, therefore, can only be conjectured from its numerous Chantries and Chapels. The principal of these, St. Mary's Chapel, "was of most excellent workmanship," and as such was preserved by Sir Giles Strangeways, to whom the Manor and Monastery were granted at the Dissolution, as a place of sepulture for himself and family. This Chapel, together with the "faire Mansion," erected by Sir Giles with part of the Abbey materials, were destroyed in the Civil Wars.

Abbotsbury Abbey was founded, according to Dugdale, by Orcus, or Urkus, Steward of the Royal Palace to Canute, and Thola, his wife, in the year 1026, for Benedictines. But Rapin says, Orcus only expelled the secular Canons, who had been established here, and introduced regular ones. Edward the Confessor bestowed on this Society all wrecks found on the shores of Abbotsbury; and Henry the First not only confirmed this privilege, but added several others.

"On an eminence half a mile south-west from the town, stands a small building, called ST. CATHERINE'S CHAPEL, which Hutchins

ARBOUTSBURY.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Hutchins conjectures was built about the time of Edward the Fourth. The style of architecture is very singular, each side of the building being strengthened with buttresses that rise above the parapet surrounding the roof, and terminate in square tops. At the north-west angle is a tower, the steps leading to the upper part of which are gone, though the rest of the building has suffered but little damage. The roof is arched in the inside, where a few ornaments and mouldings still remain; and on the outside, the lower part of the parapet is pierced with arched apertures to drain off water. There is a porch on each side, supported at the angles by low buttresses."*

St. Catherine's Chapel, from the loftiness of its situation, and the height of the edifice, serves both for a sea and land mark; and if built, as is most probable, during the contests between the houses of York and Lancaster, as an expiation for the shedding of so much blood, it might at that time, perhaps, have served for a look-out, to observe the motions of the enemies that infested the coast. Its materials are a reddish stone, dug out of the hill: but the whole building is now going to decay; though it was repaired, in 1742, by a Mrs. Horner, (a great benefactress to this town,) at the expence of 50l. Its length within is forty-five feet; in breadth, fourteen feet nine inches; and the walls are four feet three inches thick. Near the east end, in the south wall, is a niche, and two more on each side of the east window, one over the other. In the inside, near the top, were three or four coats of arms; one a chevron between three swans. On the top are three apertures to the south-east and west, to reconnoitre the country, whence is a very extensive prospect.

The Parish Church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was erected apparently a short time before the Reformation. It consists of a body and side aisles; the former having six pillars on a side. The roof is of frame-work, nearly flat, and contains several impalements of the Strangeways. The tower is embattled. Over the western door is carved a representation of the Trinity; an old man sitting on a chair, with a dove at his right ear, and a crucifix between his knees. In

* Maton's Observations, Vol. I. p. 69.

Digitized by Google

In the chancel was a very large east window, containing a picture of the Virgin, and other ornaments; but this was defaced, to erect the present altar-piece. On the south side of the altar was likewise a very ancient coffin, of black marble, mentioned by Coker, who says, "the bones of the founder Orc, inclosed in a daintie marble coffin, which I have often seen, were removed (from the Monastery) to the adjoining parish Church." This coffin, in 1750, was deposited under-ground, near the place where it once stood: it was four feet and a half long, two broad, and one and a half deep. The pulpit is pierced in two places, in appearance by musket balls, traditionally said to have been fired by Cromwell's soldiers, through one of the north windows, at the officiating Minister, who escaped unhurt. It is, however, more likely to have happened at the time of Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper's attack on the Royalists in the Church at the siege of Sir John Strangeway's House in 1654. "On a wall, at the upper end of the south aisle, was an ancient painting of our Saviour rising out of the Tomb: on each side of him the words *Ecce Homo*. Under the tomb, an altar, with a book, chalice, patten, two cruets, &c. Two Monks, in their habits, kneeled before the altar; a stream of blood issuing out of Christ's side, received by a Monk in a chalice." This curious picture, together with an ancient wooden screen, was defaced, and taken down, when the altar was put up, and the Church *beautified*.

"At the end of a ridge of hills, about a mile and a half west of this place, and a little north of East Bexington, is an old fortification, called ABBOTSBURY CASTLE. Its form is nearly square; but the south side is longer than the north, and the angles rounded off. On the north is only one rampart: half way down is a shallow ditch; and at bottom another, not very deep On the south, towards the sea, the hill is very steep: half way down is a small ditch, and at bottom an irregular one, not always continued. The rampart on this and the north side, does not rise above the area. On the east are two very high and very thick ramparts, and two deep ditches which separate it from the rest of the hill. On the west side are two ramparts and ditches; the innermost

Digitized by Google

ncrmost rampart high, and rising above the area, but not so much as on the east. The outer rampart and ditch are not so high or deep as the other, and extend only to the north, and half of the west side. Where it is discontinued, is an entrance in the middle of that rampart. There is another entrance near the north-east angle. The area is about twenty acres. Near the south side is a low tumulus. The hill on which this Castle is raised, continues to the east about half a mile. At the foot is a ditch, in some places pretty considerable. The north side is 144 paces; the south, 250; the east, 115; the west, 217. In the south, west, and north angles, is a circular ditch and rampart, inclosing a small area, twelve paces diameter."*

The *Decoy* is a about a mile south-west from Abbotsbury, and is well covered with wood. Here great numbers of wild fowl resort, and are taken. But a greater curiosity in this neighbourhood, and an object of much attention to strangers, is the noble SWANNERY, situated about one mile south-west of the town, and lately belonging to the Earl of Ilchester.

"In the open, or broad part of the fleet, are kept 600 or 700 swans, formerly 1500, or, as some say, 7000, or 8000, including hoppers, a small species of swans, who feed and range, and return home again. In the thirty-second of Elizabeth, it was found that, from this vill to the sea, by the Isle of Portland, is an æstuary, meer, or fleet, in which the sea ebbs and flows; and in it are 500 swans; 410 white; and 90 cygnets, each of the value of two shillings and sixpence, the greater part whereof were not marked, &c. A writ was ordered out of the Exchequer to the Sheriff, to seize all the white swans not marked, who returned, he had seized 400. The defendants pleaded, that the meer lay in this parish. That the Abbots were seized of the æstuary, banks, and soil, *(solum,)* in fee; and that there was, time out of mind, a game or flight of wild swans *(volatus cygnorum et ciguettorum)* haunting there, which were not accustomed to be marked; and that the Abbot and his predecessors did breed up *(pullulent)* for the use of the kitchen and hospitality, some of the lesser cygnets, and used yearly

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 280.

Digitized by Google

ly to mark them, by cutting off the pinion of the wings, to prevent their flying away. That 35 H. VIII. the King granted it to Sir Giles Strangeways, whose grand-son Giles demised it for one year to the defendants." "N. B. Without prescription, all white swans in an open river, unmarked, belong to the King by prerogative."*

On an eminence named *Ridge Hill*, to the north of Portisham, is an ancient remain, called, by the common people, *Hell-Stone*. The tradition is, that the Devil flung it from Portland Pike, a north point of that Island full in view, as he was diverting himself at *quoits*. There are several vast stones in this kingdom called by the same name, and of which fictions equally absurd are related. They are derived from the Saxon *Helicin*, to cover or conceal. The Hebrew *Sheol*, and the Greek *Hades*, the grave, answer to this derivation, it being the common covering, or concealment, of the rest of mankind. "This *Cromlech* consisted of nine upright stones, or supporters, about three feet broad, and six high above ground, and an horizontal one, which is oval: its long diameter is ten feet, six inches; its short one, six feet; and it is about two feet thick at the north and south ends, and one foot eight inches at the east and west ends. These supporters were not of equal height; the highest were on the south, so that it must have dipped towards the north. They are now almost all thrown down on the south, and it leans only on one at the north. Its original position was from north-west to south-east. All these stones are rough, as drawn out of the quarry, except the under part of the horizontal one, which seems roughly chizeled. This monument stands on a tumulus; and on the north-west is a terrace, or avenue, sixty feet long, leading to it; thirty feet broad at one end, and ten at the other. To the east is a small barrow, but no other nearer than on the top of Blagdon. Winterborne Temple lies about two miles and a half to the north."†

Near *Blackdown*, a little north of the above, are four upright stones, about two feet high, except that one is broke off nearly to the

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 280.

† Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 310, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

the ground. They are near to, and equally distant from, each other. The common people preserve this obscure distich relating to it:

Jeffery and Jone,
And their little dog Denty, and Edy alone.

The adjoining hill of Blackdown is very high, and affords an extensive prospect.*

"In the year 1765, as Mr. John Thresher, of Corton, was digging chalk in a field called the Higher Ground, for manuring his land, his workmen fell upon several human skeletons, about eighteen inches below the surface, which lay regularly side by side, in a direction from north-east to south-west, inclosed within flat stones set edgewise, but without any incumbent stone or cover. One of these skeletons appeared to be in an erect posture, or perpendicular position. It had the whole adult compliment of teeth in its jaws, (thirty-two,) which appeared to be very sound. All the skeletons were of a larger size than is now ordinary among us.

"By the side of these skeletons were placed a row of small earthen vessels about seven or eight in number; these were made of a black crude kind of earth or clay, and seem not to have been burnt into any degree of hardness, but only baked, it is probable in an oven, or the sun, being of a loose and friable contexture, and made to hold about a pint and a half Winchester measure. Two of them, very small, were of red pottery, more solid and consistent, and appeared to have been burnt: they had likewise a sort of characters. One of these was demolished by the workmen in digging; and the other fell unluckily into the hands of a man, who, being without taste for things of this sort, wantonly made a drinking cup of it, in consequence of which it is presumed to have been demolished. The several little jugs here referred to, were not all of one make or shape, some of them being more open and flat, like our modern porringer, with a projection at each end for the more convenient taking hold of them.†

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 310, 2d Edit. † Ibid, p. 311.

Digitized by Google

ISLE OF PORTLAND.

THIS Isle, or rather peninsula, long famous for its excellent stone quarries, is situated nearly opposite to Weymouth; but is connected with the main land by a ridge of pebbles, called the *Chesil Bank*, extending nearly seventeen miles up the southern coast. Between this bank and the main land, is a narrow arm of sea, called the *Fleet*.

The name of Portland is by some derived from *Port*, a Saxon freebooter, who settled there about the year 501. By others, from its nearness to the port of Weymouth. Baxter supposes it to be the *Vindelis*, or, as he corrects it, *Vindenis*, of Antonine, which he derives from *iiindenis*, *Portuosa Insula*; by contraction, Port-island, or Portland.

The earliest historical notice of this Isle occurs in the Saxon annals about the year 787, when the first party of Danish robbers that ever visited England, made good their landing here, and slew the Governor, Præpositus, or Gerela, who commanded for King Bithric. From this period nothing material occurred till the year 1052, when it was plundered by the memorable Earl Godwin. The French made an ineffectual attempt at invasion about four centuries later. In the time of the Civil Wars, it was one of the first places garrisoned for the Parliament; but was soon afterwards possessed by the Royalists, through an ingenious stratagem. "A gentleman, who well knew the Castle, undertook, with the Earl of Caernarvon, to take it with sixty men, which were granted him. He furnished himself with Parliament colours, and marched towards the Castle with great haste, as if he fled from an enemy, and called to the guards, that he had brought some forces, but was closely pursued by the Earl of Caernarvon; on which the ports were set open. By this means they made themselves masters of a place of very great importance, commanding the haven and the town of Weymouth, and, as the case stood, of infinite wealth; the rich furniture and treasure taken by the rebels out of Wardour Castle, and elsewhere, being lodged here."* In

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 357, 2d Edit.

Digitized by Google

In the Saxon age, Portland belonged to the Crown. Edward the Confessor repenting of his credulity, for having suffered a charge of incontinency to be brought against his mother Emma, submitted to a severe penance; and, as a final atonement, bestowed this manor, with several other lands, on the Church of Winchester. He likewise confirmed the grants of *nine* manors given by Queen Emma, and *nine* more by Alwin, Bishop of Winchester, in allusion to the nine red-hot ploughshares, over which the Queen is said to have walked barefoot. William the Conqueror is supposed to have alienated Portland from the Church, as it is surveyed in Domesday Book under the title of *Terra Regis*. This Manor, and its appurtenances, at that period, yielded sixty-five pounds of pure silver. The Exeter copy adds: "here were 900 sheep, three horses of burden, fourteen beasts, and twenty-seven hogs." Henry the First, by charter, re-granted it to the Church of Winchester, and not long afterwards it was again alienated; but in the twenty-fourth of Edward the First, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, held it of the Church of Winton by exchange. In the reigns of Edward the Fourth, and Richard the Third, it had reverted to the Crown; and was first granted for life to Cecilia, Duchess of York, and afterwards to George, Duke of Clarence. By Henry the Eighth it was bestowed respectively on his Queens, Catherine Howard, and Catherine Parr. In the reign of James the First, it was granted to Queen Anne, of Denmark, and afterwards to Prince Charles; and remained in the possession of the Crown till the year 1800, when it was put up to sale by public auction.

Portland Isle measures about four miles and a half in length, and two in breadth, and is literally one continued bed or rock of free-stone. It is not, however, a steril spot; the herbage is a fine, short pasture; and in wet seasons the meadows produce plentiful crops of luxuriant grass. The sheep are supposed to amount to about 3000; and though of a peculiarly small breed, have been long famous for their delicacy of flavour. The corn is of an excellent quality; as are the oats, pease, and barley: the quantity of these, however, is necessarily limited. About two bushels an acre is the usual growth of wheat, and other grain in proportion. This is

Digitized by Google

mostly cut down with the reap-hook, which the women use with much dexterity; and to them is consigned the task of getting in the greater part of the harvest, while their husbands are more lucratively employed in the stone quarries. There is very little wood, except a few elms on the south: the substitute for fuel is usually cow-dung, which the inhabitants collect, and dry on the walls of their houses. Water is plentifully supplied by a number of springs at the lower part of the Isle, some of which are of sufficient strength to turn a mill. All the grounds are divided by stone inclosures.

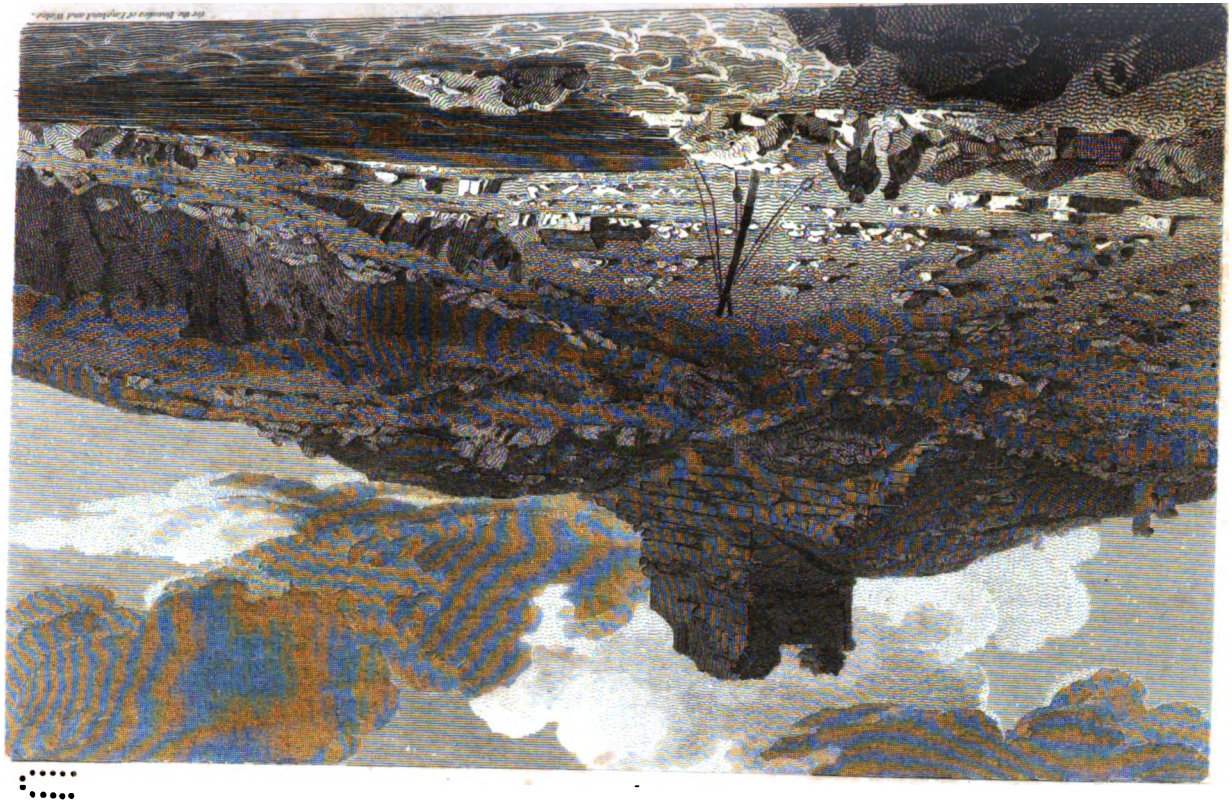
The whole Isle contains but one parish, which includes seven hamlets, or villages. Of these, *Chesilton*, which gives name to the Chesil Bank, is the first and largest. Before it stands PORTLAND CASTLE, which commands Weymouth Road, and is the residence of the Governor whenever he honors the peninsula with his presence. This fortress was constructed by Henry the Eighth, about the same period, and for the same purpose, as Sandesfoot or Weymouth Castle, on the opposite coast. It was one of the last fortresses in the West that held out for the unfortunate Charles the First. On the wainscot of a little closet over the Gun Room, is the following quaint petition for the founder and his family.

"God save Kinge Henri the VIII of that name and Prins Edwarde, begottin of Queen Jane, my ladi Mari that goodli Virgin and the ladi Elizabeth so towardli, with the Kinges honorable Counsellors."

From the Castle the land rises boldly, and rather steep, to a height of upwards of 400 feet above the level of the sea. Here is a small entrenchment, said to be Danish; and the beginning of a trench, or breast-work, which extends to every accessible part of the Isle, thrown up by the inhabitants in the time of the Civil Wars. Innumerable quarries appear from this spot; and from many places the whole Isle appears like a map.

The rocks on this side of the peninsula rise frequently to 100 or 150 feet; and large masses lie scattered on the shore: these are composed, according to Dr. Maton, of calcareous grit, containing moulds,

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

moulds, or *larvæ*, of various shells; and emitting, when rubbed with steel, a bituminous smell, like that of the *lapis suillus*. The grit is cemented together by a calcareous paste; but the moulds of *entrochi*, *vertebræ*, &c. which the stone contains, resemble, in their composition, the *hammites* of Pliny; for the granules seem to unite only by the natural cohesive power of their surfaces. In some parts of the rocks are immense *ammonitæ;* and regular veins of chert, similar to those near Kimeridge, may be traced. The cavities of these rocks are the haunts of innumerable aquatic birds. "Whilst we were making our observations," observes the Doctor, "gulls, and a great variety of water fowl, fluttered over our heads. Amidst the screams and wild notes of these birds, the roar of the waves, the *alpine* aspect of the rocks, and the dusk of evening, there was a sort of gloomy grandeur that highly interested us."

The old Castle, generally denominated BOW AND ARROW CASTLE, from its supposed appropriation to that mode of fighting, is at present only an inconsiderable ruin, containing scattered remnants of walls, and a portion of the keep. The rocks near it exhibit a truly bold and romantic appearance; and the edge of the cliff, to which probably the site of the original building extended, is awfully perpendicular. The erection of this fortress is commonly ascribed to William Rufus. In the year 1142, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, took possession of it for the Empress Matilda, which is the only historical anecdote that can be found respecting it. The walls are of a pentagonal form, perforated with a great number of loop-holes, and on every side, towards the land, are brackets, apparently for the purpose of leaving spaces, through which an enemy at the foot of the walls might be annoyed without exposing the besieged.

Near the Bill, on the south, and almost highest, part of the Isle, stand the *Light-Houses*. One of these was erected in the year 1716; the other as late as 1789. The upper, or Old House, contains two rows of Argand's lamps, furnished with metal reflectors, very highly polished. The lower, or New House, has six lamps of a similar construction, the light of which is increased by

Digitized by Google

a lens of twenty-two inches diameter. The lanterns of each house are glazed with the finest plate glass, fixed in copper frames. Every expence has been bestowed on the lights, to render them as good as possible; hence, in clear weather, it frequently happens, that they are visible till the distance is so great as to sink them below the horizon.

The New Light-House was built by William Johns, of Weymouth, at the expence of the Trinity Corporation. It has a grand and pleasing effect from the south; and, as a piece of architecture, is worthy remark. It is built of Portland stone, with pointed windows, and iron ballustrades round the top: the form is conical upon a circular plan, twenty feet in diameter at the base, and ten at the top, besides the cornice, which projects two feet. The height of the whole building, from the base, is sixty-three feet. In the inside is a geometrical stair-case, with stone steps, rail, and bannisters, which render it perfectly safe to ascend to the very curious apparatus fixed for containing the light. An inscription over the doorway commemorates the munificent founders, who are said to have erected this building "For the Direction and Comfort of Navigators, the Benefit and Security of Commerce, and a lasting Memorial of British Hospitality to all Nations." Its distance from the cliff is inscribed underneath. (1608 feet.) "I had often thought," says Dr. Maton, "that light-houses, and other buildings of the kind, which, from their very design, must be durable, might be used for ascertaining the changes on the coast in a certain series of years, and therefore made of eminent service to geology; and was much pleased to find this idea realised by the New Light-House in Portland." The very important service of these erections may be appreciated from the great danger of the adjacent coast. Innumerable masses of rock, just beneath the surface of the sea, extend in a south-west direction to a considerable distance off the coast, and eastward even as far as St. Adhelm's Head. In the former direction is a conflux of the tides from the French and English shores. These combined circumstances occasion a very perilous surf, generally known by the name of the *Race of Portland.*

Not

Not far from the Light Houses is a remarkable Cavern, called *Cave Hole*, about fifty feet square, and twenty-one deep. Its shape is that of a dome perforated at the top, and reaching a good way within land. Through this aperture, in stormy weather, a large column of sea water is frequently forced up to the height of several feet. The inside is uncommonly grand and striking; and the effect is heightened by a ceaseless solemn roar of the waves. Some years since, a vessel from Cowes, of forty tons burthen, was driven into this cave; as are frequently small craft, whose sails may be seen through the hole. In the west part it branches into two caverns, whose extent it is said has never yet been ascertained.

The PORTLAND STONE QUARRIES are scattered, more or less, over every part of the Isle; but those of most repute are at Kingston. At this place is a pier, whence 6000 tons of stone, on an average, are supposed to be shipped off annually. From Mr. Smeaton's accurate description of these Quarries the following particulars are extracted.

"In the Quarries, the first stratum is one foot of blackish or reddish earth; then six feet of *cap*, or stone, but not fit for exportation. Below this is the bed of good stone, ten or twelve feet deep; and beneath it, flint or clay. In some parts an irregular vein of flint runs through it. Under the good vein there is no more good stone. The stratum of stone that is wrought for sale, lies nearly parallel with the upper surface of the Island, and with not much cover of earth or rubbish upon it. There are several beds of stone lying in contiguity one above another, varying in thickness, in general from two to four feet and upwards. Those which are usually called the merchantable beds, (on account of the blocks for sale being produced therefrom,) are universally covered with a stratum called the *cap*, which is formed entirely of a great variety of kinds, but in general so distinct and separate in their forms, that, to the curious naturalist, their species seem very easy to be made out; but as they in a considerable degree retain their respective figures, (though in some places more, some less,) spaces or cavities are left between them, which consequently very much diminish the coherence of the mass; but yet the cementing

Digitized by Google

principle is so strong, that the whole together is considerably harder than the merchantable beds; and, indeed, so hard, that, to get rid of it as easily as possible, it is generally blasted off with gunpowder: were it not for these cavities, the cap-stone would not readily be worked with tools; or, at least, it would not be worth working at a place where there is so great plenty of stone of a better quality; but as it is necessary to remove it in the course of working the better kind of stone, though by far the greatest proportion is blasted in fragments, yet, for the buildings on the Island, the cap-stone is in general use, and also for the piers and quay walls of Weymouth harbour; and for several rough purposes under water, the cap would make quite as good and durable work as the merchantable blocks.

" When the merchantable beds are cleared of the cap, the quarry men proceed to cross-cut the large flats, which are laid bare with wedges in the way I have described as to the moorstone; only the wedges are not so numerous; nor does Portland stone split so evenly as the granite; and frequently in the splitting, as well as other working, of this stone, oyster and other fossil shells are discovered in the solid substance of the merchantable stone. The beds being thus cut into distinct lumps, the quarry-man, with a tool called a *kevel*, which is at one end a hammer, and at the other an axe, whose edge is so short and narrow, that it approaches towards the shape of a pick, by a repetition of sturdy blows, soon reduces a piece of stone by his eye to the largest square figure which it will admit; and blocks are thus formed, from half a ton to six or eight tons weight, or upwards, if particularly bespoke.

" When I viewed the simple construction of their carriages, I could not but wonder, upon being told that such a very plain piece of machinery was all they had for getting the largest blocks down to the water-side; but when I saw the application, my wonder ceased. I have already observed, that the plane upon which the quarries are situated, is considerably elevated above the sea. It is further to be observed, that, though the greatest part of the circumference of the Isle to seaward is bounded by cliffs almost perpendicular, yet on the north side, towards the main land

of

Digitized by Google

of Dorsetshire, the descent is more moderate; though it is rather quick every where. It did not, indeed, at once occur to me, that, though it would require very great power to draw large stones against gravity, or up hill, and even a considerable one to draw them upon the plain ground; yet, in moving down hill, their gravity would assist them. The carriages are a sort of carts, consisting of nothing more than a pair of very low strong wheels, (as well as I remember,) about a yard in diameter, and a very thick axle-tree, upon which is fixed a stout planking, or platform, that terminates in a draught-tree, for steerage, and yoking the cattle to.

"The wheels and platform being low, the blocks are the more easily loaded thereon; and a necessary power is employed, according to the size of the block, to draw it to the commencement of the descent. To this place a quantity of blocks of different sizes have been at leisure times previously drawn; and one of these blocks, of a suitable size, such as experience has pointed out, is by a strong chain attached to the carriage on which the other block is placed, which is then drawn forward by the block in tow, till they are got sufficiently on the slope of the road to find an inclination in the loaded carriage to move the attached block; after which the horses and beasts of draught are taken off, except such as are absolutely necessary for the guidance; and in this way (the descent being continual to the pier) two large stones are got down with a degree of ease and expedition that would be almost impracticable with one alone, without more complicated machinery. About 9000 tons of stone are supposed to be dug in these quarries yearly."*

Though

* Portland stone was brought into repute in the reign of James the First, who employed it, by the advice of his architects, in the construction of the Banqueting House at White-Hall. After the fire of London, it was generally used by Sir Christopher Wren, in erecting the various public edifices; St. Paul's Church, the Monument, and, in fact, almost every fabric of note being built with it. Dr. Maton observes, that the name of *Free-stone* is very expressive of the useful property of the Portland-stone, in enduring to be cut in any direction, whether horizontal, perpendicular, or parallel, to the site of the strata; while it bears the injuries of the weather equally well in every position.

Digitized by Google

Though the natives of Portland are such a stout muscular race, and fit for the hard labor which the quarries require, there are few instances of longevity amongst them; probably owing to a free use of spirits. It is related, that they were anciently famous for flinging stones, a sort of ammunition which this Isle very plentifully supplies; and hence among the Britons, acquired the name of *Baleares;* and from the report of Dr. Maton, it seems they have not totally forgot their ancient occupation. "It generally happens (observes that gentleman) that capacity or ability for the labour which a particular situation furnishes, becomes, in a succession of generations, congenial with the constitution of the people by whom that labour is inherited. We talk of a breed of race-horses; why should we suppose any absurdity in a *breed* of quarry-men? I was amazed to see with what facility these people lifted, and divided, masses of stone, large enough to deter ordinary men from attempting it."

A singular and very curious custom is said to obtain among these people, of a nature not altogether dissimilar to the American one of *Bundling*. It is called by the natives, *Portland Custom*, and is thus related by Mr. Smeaton. Admiring the strength and healthy appearance of the men, and with what ease and expedition they performed their operations in the stone quarries, "I enquired (he observes) of my guide, Mr. Roper, where they could possibly pick up such a set of stout hardy fellows." "If you knew how these men are produced," replied he, "you would wonder the less; for all our marriages are productive of children." On desiring an explanation how this happened, he proceeded, "Our people here, as they are bred up to hard labour, are very early in a condition to marry, and provide for a family. They intermarry with one another, very rarely going to the main land to seek a wife; and it has been the custom of the Isle, *from time* immemorial, that they never marry till the woman is pregnant." "But pray," says I, "does not this subject you to *a great number* of bastards? Have not your Portlanders the same kind of fickleness in their attachments, that Englishmen are subject to; and in consequence, does not this produce many inconveniencies?"

"None

"None at all," says Roper; "for, previous to my arrival here, there was but one child on record of the parish register, that had been born a bastard, in the compass of 150 years. The mode of courtship here is, that a young woman never admits of the serious addresses of a young man, but on the supposition of a thorough probation. When she becomes with child, she tells her mother; the mother tells her father; and he tells his son, that it is then proper time to be married." "But suppose, Mr. Roper, she does not prove with child, what happens then? do they live together without marriage? or, if they separate, is not this such an imputation upon her, as to prevent her getting another suitor?" "The case is thus managed," answered my friend. "If the woman does not prove with child, after a competent time of courtship, they conclude they are not destined by Providence for each other: they therefore separate; and as it is an established maxim, which the Portland women observe with great strictness, never to admit a plurality of lovers at one time, their honor is no-ways tarnished. She just as soon (after the affair is declared to be broke off) gets another suitor, as if she had been left a widow, or that nothing had ever happened, but that she had remained an immaculate virgin." "But pray, Sir, did nothing particular happen upon your men coming down from London?" "Yes," says he, "our men were much struck, and mightily pleased, with the facility of the Portland ladies; and it was not long before several of the women proved with child; but the men being called upon to marry them, this part of the lesson they were uninstructed in; and, on their refusal, the Portland women arose to stone them out of the Isle; insomuch, that those few who did not care to take their sweethearts for better, for worse, after so fair a trial, were, in reality, obliged to decamp. On this occasion, one bastard only was born; but since then matters have gone on according to the ancient custom."

It is probably owing to the above causes, and their almost always marrying among themselves, that the natives express a degree of jealousy and dislike to strangers who attempt to settle in the Isle, and whom they distinguish by the name of *Kemberlins*.

The

Digitized by Google

The degree of relationship which these frequent intermarriages produce, operates likewise to prevent that appearance of want in individuals which is common in other places. "I think there is less poverty here (observes a certain author) than in any place I ever saw; and where it is so, it usually proceeds from a father's dying before any of his family can provide for, or help to maintain the rest: the young men are generally very attentive, in such cases, to their mothers; and it is no uncommon thing to hear them say, they will not marry whilst their mothers live. The custom of *Gavelkind*, or an equal distribution of land among the heirs of a family, which obtains here, no doubt conduces to the same end. The women who inherit land in their own right, claim the privilege of doing so; and the property thus acquired, they are very tenacious of parting with, looking upon it as a disgrace to sell what they never earned. A man has been known feelingly to lament his misfortune, in not being able to leave that to his children which his father left to him."

Portland has evidently undergone, from natural convulsions, many alterations, the marks of which are every where visible. In 1665, the great pier was entirely demolished, and filled up with rubbish; the ways leading from the piers to the quarries were turned upside down, and sunk at several places above thirty feet, and near 100 yards of earth slid into the sea. In December, 1734, nearly 150 yards on the east side gradually gave way, and fell into the sea, occasioning, by the shock, huge chasms, in one of which, between the Pier and the Castle, several large skeletons were discovered: they were buried between two stones set edgeways, and another laid over them. But the greatest slide took place as late as the year 1792; and it is observable, that the season was remarkably wet, as was the case in 1734, which made the blue marle, or clay, very slippery: the week preceding, there had been strong gales of wind, and exceedingly high tides, which drew off a great deal of the rocks and beach, that served as a natural buttress to the land above.

"Early in the morning, the road was observed to crack and rent; this continued increasing, and before two o'clock, the ground

Digitized by Google

ground had sunk several feet, and was one continued motion; but attended with no other noise than what was occasioned by the separation of the roots and brambles, and now and then a falling rock. At night it seemed to stop a little, but soon moved again; and before morning, the ground, from the top of the cliff to the water-side, had sunk in some places fifty feet perpendicular. The extent of the ground that moved was about a mile and a quarter from north to south, and 600 yards, from east to west."*

The various strata of which this Island is composed, and the inexhaustible fund which its shores and quarries afford, furnish abundant speculation to the curious naturalist. Near the Castle is a stratum of black schistus, or coal-stone. It is found on the outside of the cliffs, and dug horizontally: it rises in laminæ, and is of two sorts, black and reddish. When burnt, it is used for manure. Another species of stone, called *sugar-candy-stone*, is found in the quarries to the south-west: one sort of it is pale; another of amber color, like white and brown sugar-candy. In the quarries to the north-west, in the vein of good stone, are found many petrified shells. The *cockle*, *oyster*, *muscle*, and *turbinated* kind, are common. Many of the *heart* kind, and some of the cornua ammonis† *spirals*, or *screws*, abound in the free-stone; some very large, and peculiar to this place, and esteemed as very great curiosities: they are difficult to get out, being of the same substance with the stone, are very friable, and frequently break. They are perfectly solid; and so nicely coiled about an imaginary axis, that they form a bore as equal and regular as that of a capillary glass tube. But what justly excites amazement, is the Portland Beach, called the *Chesil Bank*.‡ This singular curiosity particularly

* Hutchins's Dorset, Vol. II. p. 366.

† There is a large cornua ammonis at Wilton, taken out of one of the stones dug for the foundation of Westminster Bridge. A petrified trunk of a tree was found in digging stone for Black Friars Bridge.

‡ "A work of Nature so regular in its form, must necessarily have a regular cause: what this cause may be, seems not to be obvious; but it certainly is well worthy the attention of the skilful naturalist. It would seem not to have had its

particularly attracted the attention of Dr. Maton, whose description of it is both correct and animated. "The Chesil-Bank," he observes, "is one of the most extraordinary ridges or shelves of pebbles in Europe, and perhaps the longest, except that of Memel,

its origin at a very remote period; for the irregularities that the sea had washed in the ancient coast were still very distinct upon the salt water creek, (which, as I have already said, every where runs behind it, till its final junction with the shore;) whereas in any great length of time, they must have been so far acted upon by frost, rain, and wind, as to have been obliterated; since the present beach, like an immense bulwark, defends them from the immediate action of the sea's making any farther encroachments. It will seem also, that this bank was formed somewhat suddenly, so as to be, as it were, at once a defence to the ancient coast; for, had a quantity of pebbles been washed up from the sea, and brought to the shore gradually, there does not appear to be any reason why the action that brought them thus far, should drop them short of the shore, and not heap them upon it; in which case no salt water creek would have been formed; for then the irregular bays in the shore would have been first filled up, and the whole mass brought forward in the same kind of fair curve as we now find for it. But from whence such a mass of pebbles should come, as very soon to form so great a barricade, as to shut out the sea, is a problem not seeming to admit of an easy solution.

"It further appears, that this beach, lying in such a direction as to receive the full action of the south-west seas, the component pebbles are of so loose a nature, that every tide makes an apparent change in the manner of its slope to seaward; which being formed into a sort of steps, or benches, answerable to the last high water mark, these range regularly for a considerable length, and seldom remain the same for several tides together. In time of storms, great quantity of the pebbles are driven over the summit; and as there is no power acting in a contrary direction to bring them back again, one might at first be led to suppose, the whole beach to be in a slow state of progression towards the shore, and that in time, it would fill up the salt creek. But, in contradiction to this idea, that four, five, or six feet beneath the surface of the pebbles, there is every where a strong mound of blue clay, having the same general shape as the beach. This one can hardly imagine to be in a moving state; and though there may be an endless succession of pebbles constantly washing up from the sea, to supply the place of those washed over the summit, yet still, why there is not a gradual encroachment upon the salt creek, does not readily appear. Was there any considerable discharge of land-water by this creek, that would doubtless keep it clear, and the reflux of the salt water may somewhat tend to the same end; but yet its reflux seems far too languid to be sufficient for the purpose."

Smeaton's History of the Edystone Light House.

Digitized by Google

mel, in Polish Prussia. Its length is supposed to be about seventeen miles. Its breadth is in some places nearly a quarter of a mile. The pebbles are so loose, that horses' legs sink almost knee deep at every step; but a traveller of any curiosity should by no means neglect to examine the productions of this pebbly desart. With regard to the pebbles themselves, they in general consist of white calcareous (known by the name of Portland) pebbles; but there are many of quartz, jasper, chert, and a variety of other substances. It is worthy of remark, that they gradually diminish in size, the nearer they approach to the main land, being very little larger than horse-beans towards Abbotsbury; though at the other end of the bank, they are from one inch to three inches in diameter. We found the edge to the right by far the firmest, and easiest for our horses, especially as the pebbles were somewhat bound together by the marine plants growing in patches along the water-side."*

The channel adjoining the beach is extremely dangerous, as a south-west wind sets right in shore, and brings with it a terrible sea. When a ship has the misfortune to be embayed, her best chance is, if she can carry sail, to make bold with Portland, where there is a strong outset: but should all endeavors fail, and the crew be reduced to the dismal necessity of running ashore, they should do it with a press of sail, to force the ship on the beach, and remain on board a few seas, which generally settles the ship, and affords an opportunity of reaching land: but if they leave the ship, the sea is so heavy, and the underton so great, that there remains little prospect of saving life.†

When vessels coming from the west, omit to keep a good offing, or are taken by contrary winds, and cannot weather the high road of Portland, but are driven between the Island and the main land, they perish without remedy. And it is observed, that more Dutch ships are lost here than any other, almost every year, especially in winter; which is thought to be owing to an obstinate adherence to their charts, and not allowing for the true variations of the compass.

It

* Western Counties, Vol. I. p. 63. † Hutchins.

Digitized by Google

It is impossible for any people to be more ready, or to run greater risk, than the Portland men do, to save the lives of those who have the misfortune to be wrecked on their coast: but on these occasions, to the disgrace of law and humanity, they plunder without remorse. In stormy seasons, they watch for their prey with the greatest avidity, and frequently pick up, during their search on the coast, valuables of different kinds. This savage custom, encouraged formerly by grants of wrecks to Lords of Manors, is still permitted from motives of mistaken lenity.*

* In concluding this description of Dorsetshire, we must acknowledge the very material assistance derived from Hutchins's History. The mass of valuable information contained in that work, has been of signal benefit; not only from its own intrinsic importance, but likewise from its rendering particular researches less necessary.

Digitized by Google

LIST

OF THE

Principal Books, Maps, and Views, that have been published in Illustration of the Topography and Antiquities of the Counties contained in this Volume.

DEVONSHIRE.

Many Authors have published Collections, &c. towards a History of this County: but a complete History has not yet been effected. The Rev. Mr. POLWHELE's Topographical Works are the latest, and the most copious. By his Prospectus, he engaged to include the whole County in Three Folio Volumes; towards which he published (in 1793) the *Second Volume*, containing "*The First Part of the Chorographical Survey of Devonshire.*" Part of the *First Volume* was published in 1797. This contains the Natural History of the County, with some Dissertations relating to the *British Period.* The same, with additional Information, was published in a small Quarto Volume, entitled, "*Historical Views of Devonshire.*" This Series he proposed to complete in Five Volumes, but only one has appeared. Another Portion of Mr. Polwhele's History is now printing.

Smeaton's "*History of the Edystone Light-House,*" large Folio, with Plates.

Sir William Pole's "*Collections toward a Description of Devonshire,*" was published in One Volume, 4to. 1791.

"*A Survey of the Diocese of Exeter, with a List of the Parish Churches,*" &c. 4to. 1782.

"*A complete History of all the Religious Houses in the Counties of Devonshire and Cornwall, &c. by the Rev. William Jones, A. B.*" 12mo. 1779.

"*Picturesque Excursions in Devon and Cornwall,* by J. H. Johns, and T. H. Williams," large 8vo. with Etchings. Two Numbers published.

"*The Chorographical Description, or Survey, of the County of Devon,* collected by the Travail of Tristram Risdon," first printed in 2 Volumes, 8vo. 1714: re-published in the same Size in 1723. The Second Volume of this Edition was corrected from a more perfect MS. in the Possession of the Rev. John Prince, of Berry-Pomeroy. Some Portion of this Work has been augmented, &c. by Mr. William Chapple, of Exeter, under the Title of

Digitized by Google

"*A Review of Part of Risdon's Survey of Devon: containing the general Description of the County; with Corrections, Annotations, and Additions.*" 1 Volume, 4to. 1785.

"*Danmonii Orientalis illustris; or, The Worthies of Devon; a Work wherein the Lives and Fortunes of the most famous Divines, Statesmen, Swordsmen, Physicians, Writers, and other eminent Persons, Natives of that most noble Province,*" &c. by John Prince, Vicar of Berry-Pomeroy, Exeter, Folio 1701, p. 600.

"*A plain and easy Method, shewing how the Office of Overseer of the Poor may be managed, whereby it may be 900l. per Annum Advantage to the County of Devon, without abating the Weekly Relief of any Poor, or doing a Penny Damage to any Person. By Richard Dunning, Gentleman, London,* 1685," 4to.

John Vowell, alias Hoker, wrote, in 1584, a "*Description of this City, (Exeter,) and of the sundry Assaults given to the same.*" This was reprinted in Vol. II. of Holinshed's Chronicle, and afterwards, with other Pieces by the same Author, in 4to. under the Title of "*The antiquated Description and Account of the City of Exeter: in Three Parts,*" &c.

"*Remarkable Antiquities of the City of Exeter; giving an Account of the Laws and Customs of the Place,*" &c. by Richard Izacke. 8vo. 1677 and 1681. This was reprinted in 1731, 1734, and 1741. Some of these were edited by his Son, Samuel Izacke, Esq. who also published an "*Alphabetical Register of Persons who, by Will, &c. gave Money or Tenements, &c. for the Relief of the Poor,*" &c. London, 8vo. 1736.

Mr. Brice, a Printer of Exeter, is now printing a History of that City, in Numbers: and Two other similar Works are announced for Publication.

"*An Essay towards a History of Bideford,*" by John Watkins, 8vo. 1792.

An Historical Account, with several Prints, of EXETER CATHEDRAL, has been published by the Society of Antiquaries, in large Folio. The Historical Part by Dean Lyttleton, and Sir Henry Englefield, Bart. and the Plan, Elevations, and Sections, from Drawings by Mr. J. Carter.

"*Memoirs of the Antiquities of Tiverton,*" &c. by a Gentleman, 8vo. 1712.

"*Historical Memoirs of the Town and Parish of Tiverton,*" &c. by Martin Dunsford, Merchant, Exeter. 4to. 1790, p. 460.

"*The Laws and Statutes of the Stannarie of Devon.*" London printed 1600, Folio; at which Time Sir Walter Raleigh was Lord Warden.

"*Here foloyth the Conformacyon of the Charter perteyninge to all the Tynners wythyn the Countey of Devonshyre, with there Statutes also made at Crockeryntorre, by the hole Assent and Consent of al the sayd Tynners, yn the Yere of the Reygne of our Sovereyne Lord Kynge Henry*

Digitized by Google

Henry VIII. the Secund Yere. Here endeth the Statutes of the Stannary, imprented yn Tavystoke, the XX Day of August, the Yere of the Reygne off our Soveryne Lord Kynge Henry the VIII, the XXVI Yere. God ssave the Kynge." This singular Book consisted of 16 Leaves, 4to.

The following Numbers of the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS contain Papers relating to this County:—No. 23. Account of a Load-Stone, 50 Pounds Weight, moving a Needle at Niné Feet Distance. No. 69. Observations on the Mines. No. 204. Oliver's Observations on the Lay Well near Brixham. No. 424. Atwell's Account of the same. No. 316. Dr. Bury's Method of manuring Land with Sea-Sand. No. 474. Dr. Huxham's Description of a fine Stalactite, found at Cat-down, near Plymouth. In Vol. LI, is Dean Milles's Description of the Bovey Coal. In Vol. LXIV, is Mr. Walsh's Account of the broad Marine Torpedo, found in Torbay.

Some miscellaneous Information concerning this County is contained in the following Works.

" MARSHALL'S *Rural Economy of the West of England*," 2 Vols. 8vo.

" SHAW'S *Tour through the Western Counties*," 8vo.

" MATON'S *Observations on the Western Counties*, 2 Vols. 8vo.

" WARNER'S *Walk into the Western Counties*, 8vo.

" GILPIN'S *Observations on the Western Parts of England*," 8vo.

VIEWS, MAPS, PLANS, &c.

Plymouth Citadel was engraved by Mosley, from a Drawing by Mace, in 1737; and by Rocque.

A Geometrical Plan and West Elevation of *Plymouth-Dock*, with the Ordnance Wharfs, &c. by Milton; Canot, Sc. 1756.

View of the *New Baths and Long Room* near Plymouth, 1766. View of Ditto, with the adjoining Country, engraved by Mason, from a Drawing by Northcote.

A Geometrical Plan and West Prospect of *Stoke Town*, &c. was designed by Milton, and engraved by Fourdrinier.

In the Archives of the Society of Antiquaries, among the Drawings given by Bishop Lyttelton, are the South Front of the *Old Guildhall*, and the Saxon Door-Case of the *Castle* at *Exeter*; and Two *Saxon Fonts* at Alphington and Stoke-Canon.

Several Views of *Edystone Light-House*, were engraved by Short, Winstanley, Hulsberg, &c.

A View of *Tavistock*, by Delafontaine, engraved by Parr, 1741. A South West View by Buck, 1734. A South View of *Ford Abbey* was engraved by Buck, 1734.

Four Views of *Mount Edgecumbe*, by Chatelain, after Lambert. Three by Mason, after the same Artist. Another by Badeslade and

Digitized by Google

Towns. One from the Blockhouse, by Mason. A General View on Two Sheets, by Canot.

Messrs. Buck engraved, in 1736, West and North-West Views of the City of *Exeter*.

Fairlove's Map contains Views of the *Cathedral*, *Guildhall*, *Custom-House*, and *Workhouse*, in Exeter.

Rocque's Map, engraved by R. White in 1744, has North and West Views of the *Cathedral*, *Exe Bridge*, *Workhouse*, *Guildhall*, *Castle*, *City-Hospital*, *City and County-Hospital*, and the *Custom-House*, from Trew's Ware.

Rougemont Castle, by Grose and Sparrow.

Buck published a large View of *Powderham Castle* in 1745.

Kip engraved Eight Views and Plans of the *Town of Plymouth*, in 1677-8, with a View of the Dock-Yard near Plymouth.

Two Views of *Plymouth Fort* from St. Nicholas's Island, and of *Hamoaze* and *Plymouth-Dock*, from Mount Edgecumbe, were painted by Lambert and Son, from the Drawings of Charles Bampfylde, Esq. and engraved by Mason. A North View of the Town, and West Prospect of the Dock, by Buck, 1736.

Other Views, by Buck, are, East View of *Buckfastre* (Buckfastleigh) Abbey. View of *Tavistock* Abbey. South-West View of *Otery* Priory. East View of *Buckland* Priory. South-East View of *Frithestoke* Priory. East View of *Dartington* Temple. Two Views of *Powderham Castle*. South View of *Berry-Pomeroy* Castle. South-East View of *Dartmouth* Castle. *Tiverton* Castle. And South View of *Okehampton* Castle.

A good Prospect of *Torr Abbey* is in the Monasticon, Vol. II. p. 652.

Castle-Hill was engraved by *Rigaud*, Vitr. Brit. Vol. I. p. 78-79. Another by Watts, in his Views of Seats.

"*Monastic Remains and Ancient Castles*," by Moore and Parkyns, 8vo. has many Views of Antiquities in Devon.

A Plan of the *City of Exeter*, by John Rocque, was engraved by R. White, 1744, in Two Sheets, with North and West Views of the Cathedral, &c. This was reduced and published in One Sheet, 1764.

Exeter Cathedral. Hollar and Vertue engraved small Views of it; and King, the West, North, and South Sides.—The great West Window, executed in Stained Glass, by Mr. William Peckitt, of *York*, was engraved by Pranker, 1769.—Engraved on a smaller Scale by Coffin, in Exon. 1772.

A Ground Plot of *Isca Dumnoniorum*, in Stukeley's Itinerary, Plates 73, 74. The Doctor makes mention of an old Plan of Exeter, taken in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Saxton's Devoniæ Comitatus, 1575, engraved by Hogenbergius, not divided into Hundreds: this, however, is done in *Speed's Map*, with a Plan

Digitized by Google

Plan of *Exeter*, and the Arms of Persons who have borne Titles of Nobility.

Another new and accurate Map, on a Scale of one Inch to a Mile, from an actual Survey by Benjamin Donn, was engraved by Jefferys, 1765, on 12 Sheets. Plans of the City and Suburbs of Exeter, of the Town and Citadel of Plymouth, Stoke-Town, and Plymouth-Dock, are at the Corners; with a reduced Map on one Sheet, and an Index.

Hollar engraved a Map of the *Town and Port of Plymouth*, 1623, inserted in White's Account of the Siege of that Place, 4to. 1644. Various other Plans and Prints have been published of this Town and Plymouth-Dock.

DORSETSHIRE.

The Rev. John Coker made an Attempt towards a Description, which was called "*A Survey of Dorsetshire, containing the Antiquities and Natural History of that County, with a particular Description of all the Places of Note, and ancient Seats, which give Light to many curious Parts of English History. Extracted from Domesday-Book, and other valuable Records; and a copious Genealogical Account of Three Hundred of the principal Families, with their Arms, on Six Copper Plates.* 1732," thin Folio.

The above is a most incorrect and unintelligible Edition, seemingly printed from loose Notes by Mr. Coker; these falling into the Hands of Mr. Earbury, a Nonjuring Clergyman, whose Proposals for their Publication not meeting Encouragement, the MS. was sold by him to Mr. Wilcox, a London Bookseller, who sent them into the World in their unconnected and discordant State. A corrected Copy is in the Possession of the Marquis of Buckingham, at Stowe.

The most ample and satisfactory Account of Dorsetshire, is comprised in Two Volumes, Folio, by the late Rev. Mr. John Hutchins: This was first published in 1774, under the Title of—"*The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset; compiled from the best and most ancient Historians, Inquisitiones post Mortem, and other valuable Records and MSS. in the Public Offices, Libraries, and private Hands. With a Copy of Domesday-Book, and the Inquisitio Geldi for the County. Interspersed with some remarkable Particulars of Natural History; and adorned with a correct Map of the County, and Views of Antiquities, Seats of the Nobility and Gentry, &c.*" Mr. Gough has undertaken to re-publish "*a Second Edition, corrected, augmented, and improved,*" in Three large Folio Volumes. Two of these are published.

"*A View of the principal Towns, Seats, Antiquities, and other remarkable Particulars in Dorset, compiled from Mr. Hutchins's History of that County, London,* 1773," was published for the Benefit of Mr. Hutchins's Widow and Daughter, he dying before his Work was completely printed.

"*The*

Digitized by Google

"*The Civil Division of the County of Dorset, methodically digested and arranged, by Edward Boswell*, 1795, 8vo."

The Boroughs of Dorsetshire are amply described in Willis's "*Notitia Parliamentaria;*" in Douglas's "*Cases of Controverted Elections,*" 4 Vols. 8vo. and in the "*History of Boroughs,*" 3 Vols. 8vo. 1792.

In Dr. Stukeley's "*Itinerarium Curiosum,*" is a particular Account of *the Roman Amphitheatre at Dorchester,* with Plates.

Several Pamphlets have been published concerning Weymouth, particularly "*The New Weymouth Guide,*" 18mo. 1798; and an "*Account of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis,*" &c. 1800.

A History and Description of *Sherborne Castle and Abbey,* have been published in the 39th Volume of "The Weekly Entertainer," chiefly compiled from Dugdale's Baronage.

"*A Brief Relation of Sir Walter Raleigh's Troubles, with the taking away the Lands and Castle of Sherborne, in Dorsetshire,*" 1669, 4to.

"*The nearest, and truest, and most impartial Relation of all the late Occurrences which both happened at Sherborne Castle and thereabouts, &c.*" London, 1642, 4to.

"*History of the Town and County of Poole, with its Charter, A.D.* 1568," 8vo. 1791.

"*An exact and true Relation in relieving the resolute Garrison at Lyme, in Dorsetshire, by the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Warwicke, Lord High Admiral of England, besieged by Prince Maurice, the Lord Inchiquin, and his Irish Rogues: together with the Lord Powlet,* &c." 1644, 4to.

"*Joanereidos; or, Feminine Valour: eminently discovered in West-Country Women, at the Siege of* LYME, *&c. by James Strong,*" reprinted 1674.

"*A Letter from the Right Honourable Earle of Warwicke, Lord High Admiral of England, to the Speaker of the House of Peeres. With an exact Diurnal of all the special and remarkable Passages which have happened during the Siege of Lyme, in Dorsetshire, by Prince Maurice, his Forces, from the 21st of February to the present,* 1644." 4to.

"*Two Letters to Lord Fairfax, from Sir Thomas Fairfax, his Son, concerning his besieging* SHERBORN; *the other to Sir Thomas Fairfax from Lieutenant-General Cromwell, of the Fight at* SHAFTESBURY, *with the Clubmen of Dorset, Wilts, and Somerset, with their Ring-leader brought to Sherborn, Aug.* 3, 1645," 4to.

Lulworth. Account of La Trappe Nunnery, at that Place, was published in the *Gentleman's Magazine,* 1801, p. 923.

"*Observations on the Western Parts of England, relative chiefly to Picturesque Beauty,*" &c. by the Rev. William Gilpin, 8vo. 1798. "*A Tour to the West of England in* 1788," by the Rev. S. Shaw, 8vo.

Digitized by Google

And "*Observations relative chiefly to the Natural History, Picturesque Scenery, and Antiquities, of the Western Counties of England, made in the Years* 1794 *and* 1796," by the Rev. W. G. Maton, Salisbury, 2 Vols. 8vo. contain many Particulars relating to this County.

VIEWS, SEATS, MAPS, &c.

Corfe Castle, by Buck, in 1773. Two Views by Grose, engraved by Canot and Godfrey, 1772.

Sherborne Castle, South View, by Buck, 1733.

Sherborne Abbey, its Seal, and those of *Shaftesbury* and *Abbotsbury*, were engraved by Vertue, and copied in Hutchins's History.

Sherborne Church, South East View, by Buckler, lately published by Subscription.

Weymouth Castle, engraved by Buck, 1773; another by Grose and Hall, 1772.

Portland old and *new Castle*, by Perry, copied in Hutchins.

Hutchins's History of this County contains the following Seats, and other Views.

Kingston Murwood, by Tomkins and Picot. *Melbury Tower* and *Strangeway's Castle*, by Price, Walker, and Hall. *Fleet* and *Upway*, by Price, Picot, and Bayley. *Merley*, by T. Bonnor. *Charborough*, Ditto. *Wimborne St. Giles*, Lord Shaftesbury's Seat, by W. Walker, and Vivares. *Chantmarle*, by Picot. *Plumber*, by Tomkins and Mazell. *Clifton-Gate*, built by Inigo Jones, by Tomkins and Picot. *Sydling*, by J. Bayley. *Cerne Church* and *Abbey*, also the *Giant*, or *Abbey Barn*, by J. Bayley. *Wareham*, *Blandford*, and *Bridport*, Churches; the first and last by Bayley.

Ranston, the Seat of Mr. Ryves, by Hearne and Watts, 1779.

Messrs. Buck engraved, in 1733, Views of *Milton Abbey*, *North-West*. *Abbotsbury Abbey*, *North*, and *Bindon Abbey*, *South*. They also engraved a North-East View of *Lulworth*, a North-East View of *Chidiock*, and a South View of *Corfe Castle*.

Rooker engraved a fine View of *Milton Abbey*, with the Earl of Dorchester's Seat, for Mr. Hutchins's 1st Edition.

Stalbridge Cross, engraved for Mr. Hutchins, by Basire.

Lulworth Castle, engraved in Two Views, by Basire. Others of the *Cove*, and *Bindon Abbey*.

The Roman Amphitheatre, *Poundbury*, *Maiden Castle*, and *Eggerden Camps*, by Bayley, are in Hutchins; as is also *Ibernium*, *(Woodbury Hill.)*

The most ancient *Map* of *Dorset*, was drawn by Remigius Hogenbergius, 1575, and published by Saxton.

A fair

Digitized by Google

A fair Map of Dorset is in the King's Library, 18 D. III. The Margin contains Views of the Sea Ports, and other curious Particulars.

Dorcestriæ Comitatus Vicinarumque Regionum nova veraque Descriptio, without the Hundreds.

A capital Survey of this County, on a Scale of one Inch to a Mile, was made by Isaac Taylor, of Ross, in Herefordshire, 1765, and published in Six Sheets, with various Views on the Sides. This, though the best Map, is faulty.

A Map, from actual Survey and Records of the County, by J. Bayley, 1773, is prefixed to Hutchins's History, and sold separately.

A Map of Dorset, under the Encouragement of the Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

☞ The MARKET TOWNS are distinguished by small Capitals; the *Villages* by Italicks.

A

ABBOTSBURY, Dorset, famed for its Abbey, situation, buildings, population, 539; church, 541; curious painting demolished, 542; *Decoy*, *Swannery*, 543. Abbey, particulars concerning the monastic remains there, 548. Castle, an ancient fortification, described, 542.

Adhelm's Head, St. Dorset, a noted sea-mark, 404; ruins of a chapel, loss of the Halsewell. 404, (note.)

Ærial appearances at Grange Hill, Dorset, 401.

Agglestone, Dorset, an extraordinary insulated rock. 407; called the Devil's Night Cap, tradition concerning it, 408.

Alcock, Thomas, anecdotes of his excentricities, 212.

Amphitheatres, generally described, 343, (note)

Architecture, ecclesiastical, the name English preferable to Gothic, reason why, 54, (note.)

ASHBURTON, Devon, its manorial history, situation, neatness of its buildings, manufactory of serge, church, ancient chapel, now a grammar school, 117; an ancient borough, number of voters, its government, 118.

AXMINSTER, Devon, origin of its name, history of the manor, its form, population, carpet manufacture, 318; church, school-house, Roman Catholic chapel, meeting houses, 319.

B

Bacon, fossil, its peculiar properties described, 40; particulars of its discovery, 41.

Badbury Rings, Dorset, a celebrated encampment, 429

Badcock, Rev. Samuel, anecdotes of, 277.

Baker, George, anecdotes of, 301.

BAMPTON, Devon, its situation, a Roman station, 295; its history, church, government, sheep, 296. Mineral spring, 42.

Bampton, John de, anecdotes of, 296.

BARNSTAPLE, Devon, its situation and history. 263; its incorporation, government, the town one of the neatest in Devon, trade, amusements, quay, 265; church, grammar school, 266.

Bastard, Rev. Thomas, account of, 472.

Beet-burning, otherwise called Devonshiring, an agricultural practice, 12; not destructive to soils, 13.

Bella Marsh, Devon, its mineral spring, 42.

BEMINSTER, Dorset, a town of considerable antiquity, history of the manor, 520; its desolation by fire occasioned by a quarrel, remunerated by parliament, 521; population, public buildings, free school, alms-house, 522.

Bere-Alston, Devon, right of election for members of parliament, account of the honour, 213; lead mines, 214.

Bere-Ferris, Devon, church, monuments. 214.

BERE-REGIS. Dorset, supposed the ancient Ibernium, 475; history of the manor, market, borough, 476; accidents by fire, church, population, 477.

Berry-Pomeroy Castle, Devon, account of its ruins, 121—123. Church, monuments, 123.

Biston, a seat in Devon, described, church, monument of Denys Rolle, 311.

BIDEFORD, Devon, its situation, 254; appearance, etymology, and history, 252-3; its government, history during the Civil Wars, 254, *et seq.* ravaged by a plague, 256; execution of supposed witches, foreign commerce, 257; large importations of tobacco, the quay, bridge, 258; church, monument of Mr. Strange, 259; grammar school, market house, and town hall, population, 260.

Bindon Abbey, Devon, history of its foundation, charters, 371-2; account of its ruins, 373; monumen-

Digitized by Google

tal inscription, modern monastery of La Trapp, 374.
Bishop's-Tawton, Devon, the most ancient seat of the Bishops, 263
Blackdown, Devon, a dreary mountainous ridge, 8
Blackmore Forest, Dorset, why so called, history of White-hart Silver, extent, 524
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset, its situation, history of the manor, 465-467; charter, government, its principal support, destroyed by fire, 467; town hall, 468; church, charitable donations, 469; *Damory Court*, 470.
Blandford St. Mary, Devon, the birthplace of Brown Willis, Esq. 473.
Blundell, Peter, anecdotes of, 291.
Bodley, Sir Thomas, anecdotes of, 82.
Boringdon, Devon, the house and grounds described, 142.
Bovey Coal, Devon, its origin accounted for, 33; extent of its strata, its properties described, 34; its basis, 36.
Bow, Devon, its population, 279.
Bratton, or *Bracton*, Devon, famous for being the birth-place of Judge Bracton, 242.
Bracton, Henry de, 242.
Bradford-Pool, Devon, account of, 239.
Brem-Tor, a remarkable rock in Devonshire, described, particular situation of the church, 224.
Brixham Church-Town and Quay, improved rapidly, by the navy's anchoring in Torbay; Laywell, a spring in the neighbourhood, 126.
Brianston, Dorset, history of the manor, 463; described, 464.
BRIDPORT, Dorset, its situation, 517; history of the manor, charters of incorporation, government, returns to parliament, number of voters, 518; origin of corporations, ib. (note,) the town described, population, manufacture of ropes and cordage, formerly the exclusive trade of the place, public buildings, church, monuments, 519; haven, attempts to make it a port ineffectual, cliffs, fossils, 520.
Bridport, Giles de, Bishop of Salisbury, anecdotes of, 520.
Brook, its mineral spring, 42.
Browne, William, an eminent poet, account of, 222.
BROWNSEA, Isle of, Dorset, situated at the entrance of Poole Bay, 428; soil, history, curious plants, 429. Castle, the seat of Mr. Sturt, 429.
Buckfastleigh, Devon, a considerable village, account of the abbey, most of the village built out of the ruins, church described, 118.
Buckland Abbey, Devon, account of, modern alterations, pictures, 215.
Buckland Monachorum, Devon, its handsome church described, Lord Heathfield's monument, 215. described, 216; monument to Sir F. H. Drake, 217.
Budeaux St. Devon, its ancient possessors, manor house, and church, 212.
Bullbarrow, Dorset, a considerable encampment, 487.
Butterford, Dorset, a seat, 135.

C

Cadhay, Devon, a seat, 306.
Case, John, a practitioner in physic, account of, 537.
Castle-Hill, Devon, seat of Lord Fortescue, 275; described, 276.
St. Catherine's Chapel, Dorset, particulars concerning, 540; view from it, 541.
Cave Hole, Portland, 551.
CERNE, Dorset, its situation, trade, population, 480; church, 482. Cerne Abbey, history of, 480; present remains, gate-house, 482.
CHAGFORD, Devon, its privileges, one of the stannery towns, 235.
Charborough, Dorset, a seat, 474; stair-case, building in commemoration of the Revolution in 1688, 475.
Charmouth, Dorset, supposed the ancient Carixa, battles fought there, 525; narrow escape of Charles the Second, curious phænomenon, 526.
Champernoune, Mr. anecdote of, 133.
Chesil Bank, Dorset, singular bank of pebbles, 557.
Chilcomb, Dorset, remarkable encampment on the hill there, supposed to be Saxon, 539.
CHUDLEIGH, Devon, a small, but neat market town, and manor, 101; famous for cyder, 102; Chudleigh rock described, 101; cavern, account of its interior, 104.

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

CHUMLEIGH, Devon, formerly a portion of the inheritance of the Courtenays, anecdote of the seven prebends, 278-9.

Clifford of Chudleigh, Lord, history and descents of the family, 106 Thomas, the first Lord, a great statesman, 106.

Clovelly, Devon, its romantic appearance, famous for herring-fishery, views, 248.

Clovelly Court, the seat of Sir James Hamlyn, Bart. 248.

Clovelly Dykes, an ancient encampment, 249.

Clyst House, Devon, a seat, formerly a palace of the Bishops of Exeter, 305.

Colcombe House, Devon, seat of Sir W. T. De la Pole, 314

Collipriest House, Devon, a seat, described, 295.

COLYTON, an ancient town, buildings, church, monuments, population, 314.

COMBE MARTIN, Devon, situated in a deep valley, formerly celebrated for silver mines, 269; scenery, 271; dangerous road, 272.

Compton Castle, Devon, ruins of, 115.

Cooke, Sir William, anecdotes of, 98, (note.)

Cooper, Anthony Ashley, Earl of Shaftesbury, anecdotes of, 438, 444; anecdote of his plans to conciliate all parties during the Civil Wars, 439, (note;) his preferments, 442; rigid proceedings against him, his death, 443; and character, 444.

Coram, Thomas, the benevolent projector of the Foundling Hospital, 537; anecdotes of him, 538.

CORFE CASTLE, Dorset, an ancient market town, its history, 386; incorporated, government, mode of election, 387; buildings and population, sunday schools first established in Dorsetshire, church, 388. Castle, its history, 388; the wards described, 389; chapel, twenty-two Poitivan nobility starved, 391; history continued, murder of Edward the Martyr, 392; history continued, 393; account of the siege in 1642, 396.

Courtenay, family of, its history, 89, 93.

Courtship, curious mode of at Portland, 554.

Cow and *Calf*, Dorset, two hills so called, 525.

CRANBORNE, Dorset, known to the Saxons and Normans, history of the manor, 445; British College Priory, church, monuments, the largest parish in the county, population, 446.

CREDITON, Devon, an ancient and populous town, situation, 279; injured by fire, ancient history, bishop's see, grammar school, church, schools, 280; population, government, 281.

Creech, Rev. Thomas, anecdotes of, 471.

Crockern Tor, Devon, the stannery parliaments held here, 228.

CULLUMPTON, Devon, a Saxon demesne, derives advantages by means of the road, manufactures, government, church, 297; memorial to Mr. Lane, free school, meeting houses, population, 298.

D

Dartington, Devon, seat of Mr. Champernoune, history of the estate, 118; manor house described, 119; collection of drawings, great hall, oak roof, 120; entrenchment, 121.

Dartington Church described, 120; contents of the parish, pasture, 121.

Dartmoor, Devon, described, 6; its soil, 7; a large waste, originally a forest, its tors described, 228.

DARTMOUTH, Devon, a considerable sea port, view from the bay beautiful, 127; originally consisted of three villages, streets narrow, history of the manor, government, 128; history, twice destroyed by fire, the harbour safe and capacious, castle, scenery, 129; churches, quay, charity schools, 130.

Dawlish, Devon, custom of the manor, 100; a respectable watering place, 101.

DEVON NORTH, its boundaries, greatly diversified, with beautiful scenery, account of its life tenures, 19.

DEVONSHIRE, County, whether a colony from Gaul or the East, a question, its original names, history under the Romans and Saxons, 5; boundaries and contents, external aspect, 6; gradations in landed property, breed of cattle, 20; breed of sheep

Digitized by Google

sheep and horses, 21; chanting in ox-driving described, (note,) ib. manures used in the county, weather, 22; *fisheries*, method of taking salmon, trout, plaice, torpedo, opah, sepia, oysters, 22-26; *mineralogical* substances, different strata, *calcareous*, *argillaceous*, and *silicious* genuses, various lava, granite, *inflammable substances*, Bovey coal, 26-37; pyrites, ib. *metallic substances*, tin, lead, 38-40; *extraneous fossils*, fossil bacon, its peculiarity, 40-41; *mineral waters*, the spring at Bampton more strongly impregnated with iron than any other in the county, 42; *Rivers* numerous, the Taw, Torridge, ib. Dart, 43; Teign and Exe, 44; Tavy, Plym, Yealme, Arme, Avon, Otter, Sid, Axe, Lyn, 45; ecclesiastical establishment, proportion of land tax, militia, ib.

Devonshire Agricultural Society, its constitution and object, 23.

Devonshire Colic, some account of, 17.

DEVONSHIRE WEST, its boundaries, 10; surface much diversified, most of it employed in the cultivation of grasses, and raising corn, artificially watering meadow lands long practised here, 11; beat-burning, account of, 12-14; its orchards, and the method of making cyder, described, general face of the country, peculiar mode of thatching, 18.

Devonshiring, described by Mr. Marshall, its process, 12.

Dewlish, Dorset, Roman pavement, ancient fortification described, 478.

Digby, Sir John, anecdote of his resolution, 496.

DOCK, or PLYMOUTH DOCK, Devon, manor, 165; the town modern, its shape, well paved, 166; vast value of the estate, fortifications, 167; *dock-yard*, chapel, 169; officers' dwellings, bason, 170; camber, 171; mast-house, 172; improvement in making rope, 173; double dock, 174; Union dock, 175; regulations, 176; gun wharf, 177; method of selling old stores, ib. (note,) diversity of employments, Hamoaze, ships laid up in ordinary, 178; church and chapels, 179; market-place, poor house, infirmary, population, police, 180; water, 181; difficulties concerning it, Richmond Walk, views from, 182; theatre, trade, 183; bank, 184; dissipation and religious devotion contrasted, 185; new ferry, *Morice Town*, 186.

DODBROOKE, Devon, white ale first brewed here, and tithed, 131.

DORCHESTER, early history of, and its Roman names, 330; of considerable importance among the Saxons, 331; injured by the Danes, state in the time of William I. accidents by fire, disaffected to the Royal cause in the Civil Wars, fortifications, 332; its history at that time, and during the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, 333; account of the manor, government of the town, situation, 334; public buildings, churches, monuments, 335-337; town-hall, new gaol, 337; free-schools, alms-houses, the town fortified by the Romans, remains, 339; Dorn pennies and other antiquities discovered, environs pleasant, objects of historical research, Poundbury and Maiden Castles, numberless tumuli, 340; Maumbury amphitheatre described, 341; Poundbury camp, account of, Maiden Castle, a summer station, 345.

DORSETSHIRE, its ancient inhabitants and early history, 321; boundaries, form, general appearance, divisions, mostly pasture land, waste, 322; turnpike roads numerous, for the mildness of its air termed the Garden of England, different *soils*, downs, meadows, 323; mode of agriculture, prices of land, barley, beer, flax and hemp, 324; *process of extracting oil*, lime used as manure, chief produce, 325; noticed by Dyer, sheep, horses, 326; *pigfish*, mackerel fishery, superstitious notions of the fishermen, 327; manufactures, Roman roads and stations, 328; rivers, 329; anciently a bishop's see, members of parliament, proportion of land tax, militia, 330.

Drake, Sir Francis, the first Englishman that circumnavigated *the globe*, 220; account of his expedition, 221; dies much lamented, 222.

Drew Steignton, Devon, its *cromlech* described, 230; arguments concerning, 231; the chief station of *Druidism*

Digitized by Google

Druidism in Devonshire, its situation, and history, 237; scenery, 238.
Duck, Arthur, account of, 84.
Dunkeswell, Devon, an abbey here, 298.

E

East Axmoller, Dorset, streams issuing from, 524.
Eastbury, Devon, account of its depopulation, 447.
Edystone, rocks and light house, tides, 191; particular account of, 192; Mr. Winstanley's plan frustrated, 193; his unhappy death, 194; loss of the Winchelsea, Rudyard's construction of a light house, 195; noble conduct of Lewis XIV. 197, (note;) Rudyard's light house destroyed by fire, 199; remarkable circumstance of Henry Hall, 201, (note;) Smeaton's plans for rebuilding the light house, 203, *et seq.* his experiments, 206; the building completed, 208; described, 209.
Eggerdon Camp, Dorset, a large and strong fortification, its compass, 516; general description, fine view from, a Roman station, 517.
Encombe, a seat, its situation, history, remarkable mushroom, 403.
Englebert, William, anecdote of, 508.
Escot House, Devon, a seat, described, paintings, its luxuriant plantations, 302.
Ettricke, an eminent antiquary, his eccentricity, 422.
Exeter, the emporium of the West, its British and Roman names, 46; various authorities for the conjecture, 48; its consequence among the Saxons, 50; its later history, 51; account of sieges, 52; *cathedral*, 54; an account of the number of religious houses called Monktown, 55; history of the see, ib. anecdotes of ancient bishops, 56; Bishop Warlewast, most considerable founder of the fabric, 57; Bishop Quivil, constructor of the present fabric, 58-60; particularly described, 61-72; organ, one of the finest in England, great bell, 69; chapels, sepultures, and tombs, 70-71; parish churches not remarkable, 72; gates, ib. situation, 73; Rougemont Castle described, ib. ancient buildings, Guildhall, pictures there, 75; conduits, charitable institutions, hospitals, 76; bishop's palace, privileges of the city, 78; corporation and trade, 79; bridge, principal employ of the inhabitants, 80; famous men born there, 81-83.
Exeter, Vale of, Devon, has an irregular surface, its produce, 8.
Exminster, Devon, village, its pleasant situation, 88.
Exmouth, Devon, one of the best frequented watering-places in the county, buildings, extensive view, 307; population, 308.

F

Faringdon, Dorset, a seat, its pleasant situation, 305.
Fern Down, Dorset, account of a barrow at, 516.
Fleet House, Devon, a seat, fine views from, 134.
Flower's Barrow, Dorset, particular account of, 366.
Ford, Devon, a house belonging to the Courtenay family, widow's-house, a charitable institution, 116; curious rules to be observed by them, 117.
Ford Abbey, a seat, described, 319; account of the abbey, monuments in the chapel, 320.
Fordington, Dorset, village of, its history, 347; church, an ancient structure, causeway, skeletons found, 348.
Frithelstoke Priory, Devon, its site a farm-yard, 245.
Fowelscombe, Devon, a seat, 135.

G

Gavelkind, custom of, in use at Portland, 500.
Gay, John, anecdotes of, 266.
Gidliegh Park, Devon, its lords, 234; its particularities, 235.
Gill, Roger, singular anecdote of his re-mastication, 428.
Gillingham, the most extensive parish in Dorsetshire, disaffection occasioned by disforesting it, battle fought near, 456.
Glanville, the Rev. Joseph, anecdotes of, 164.
Grange, or Creech Grange, Dorset, a seat, anciently belonging to the abbey of Bindon, 400; the structure described, 401.
Granger, Rev. James, anecdotes of, 456.

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

Granville, Sir Richard, account of his battle with the Spaniards, 252-253, (note)

Great Fulford, Devon, a seat of Mr. Fulford, its history, apartments, pictures, 236; garrisoned for Charles I. chapel, park, 237.

Grime's Ditch, conjectures concerning, 447.

Grimspound, Devon, an ancient amphitheatre, described, 231.

Gubb's Wall, Devon, mineral spring there, 42.

H

Haccombe, Devon, enjoys extraordinary privileges, 111; anecdote of one of the Carews, 112; monumental inscription, ib.

Hall, Henry, remarkable case of, 201, (note.)

Haldon House, Devon, described, 84; library, manuscripts, pictures, and grounds, 85; views, 86.

Haldon Hill, its beauties described, 86; cairns, with their contents, discovered there, 87.

Hambledon Hill, Dorset, an extensive fortification, described, 462.

HARTLAND, Devon, its situation, 245; market frequented by fishermen, church, population, 246; point, conjectures concerning, 245, (note;) abbey, the seat of Mr. Orchard, described, 246; foundation of the abbey, and its history, 247, *et seq.*

Hastings, Henry, Esq. his singular manner of living, 434, (note.)

HATHERLEIGH, Devon, an ancient market and borough town, account of the manor, population, 243.

Hawkins, Admiral Sir John, some account of, 164.

Hayes, Devon, the birth-place of Sir Walter Raleigh, 308.

Heavitree, Devon, formerly called Woneford, its history, 83; Richard Hooker, and Arthur Duck, born here, 84.

Hembury Fort, Devon, a triple entrenchment, supposed to be the Moridunum, 299.

Hemyock, Devon, an extensive parish, remains of its castle, 298.

Hewling, William, cruel persecution of, 532.

Hod Hill, Dorset, an ancient fortification, described, 462.

Holcombe Court, Devon, a seat, described, 296.

HOLDSWORTHY, Devon, its population, 243.

HONITON, Devon, its beautiful situation, and history, 299; parliamentary representation, compass, buildings, suffering by fire, population, church, 300; Alhallow's chapel, meeting-houses, schools, 301.

Hooker, John, anecdotes of, 82.

Hooker, Richard, some account of, 8.

Horton, Dorset, account of its abbey, ancient entrenchment, 433; church, Mr. Hastings, his singularities, 434, (note;) Monmouth Close, 437.

Hubblestone, Devon, supposed the burial-place of Hubba, 262.

Hudson, Thomas, painter, account of, 140, (note.)

Huel Friendship, Devon, a copper mine so called, described, 227.

Huel Jewel, and Huel Unity, Devon, described, 228.

Humphry, Ozias, born at Honiton, 301.

Hussey, Giles, painter, anecdotes of, 457-460.

I

ILFRACOMBE, Devon, situation, peculiar safety of its harbour, rocks, lighthouse, 267; pier, church, population, government, 268.

Ilsington, Devon, its mineral spring, 42.

Iscanus, Josephus, born at Exeter, anecdotes of him, 81

Ivy-Bridge, Devon, a romantic village, 137.

K

Kennicott, Benjamin, D. D. a celebrated Hebraist, 126.

Kenton Manor, Devon, account of, church, a handsome fabric, its interior ornaments, 96; monuments, 97.

Kent's Hole, Devon, described, 113.

Kilmington, Devon, origin of the name, 317; manor, 318.

Kimeridge, Dorset, account of its alum mines, 402.

King-Barrow, Dorset, account of its disclosures, and contents, 385.

King, Sir Peter, anecdotes of, 83.

KINGSBRIDGE, Devon, a small market-town, manor, David Tolley, a famous classic, born here, 131.

Digitized by Google

Kingston Hall, Dorset, a seat, described, pictures, 415.
Kingston House, Dorset, a seat, its situation, romantic views, 514.
Kneller, Sir Godfrey, anecdote of his first introduction, 415.

L

Lambart's Castle Hill, Dorset, its entrenchment, 525.
Lamerton Church, Devon, Tremain's monuments, with singular anecdote of twins, 223.
Lancras, Devon, its beautiful situation on a peninsula, the birth-place of General Monk, 251.
Laywell, Devon, an ebbing and flowing spring near Brixham Church-Town, 126; its qualities described, 127.
Lewesdon Hill, Dorset, the subject of a poem, 524; extract from, 526.
Ley, in Bere-Ferris, 214.
Ley, Sir James, account of, 214.
Light Houses, at Portland, described, 549.
Lindridge, a seat, described, pictures, 107; plantations, unrivalled in Devon, 108.
Linmouth, Devon, account of, 272.
Lindsay, Rev. Thomas, Archbishop of Armagh, 473.
Linton, Devon, account of, 273.
Lisle, Rev. Samuel, Bishop of Norwich, account of, 473.
Logan, or rocking-stone, Devon, near Drew-Steignton, account of, 232.
Lullworth Castle, Dorset, the seat of Mr. Weld, its fine situation, account of the castle, 363; pictures, manor, 364; chapel, its beautiful structure, fine psalter, 365; church, Flower's barrow, 366; described, 367, *et seq.*
Lullworth Cove described, 362.
Lundy Island, Devon, its situation, difficulty of access, its state of cultivation, its produce, formerly more populous, 249; a harbour for pirates, lately the possession of Sir J. B. Warren, its rental, antiquities, 250; plundered by the French, 251.
Lupton House, Devon, a seat, described, 126.
Luscombe House, Devon, a seat, its situation, house and grounds, described, 101.
Lydford, Devon, a poor village, 224; formerly of consequence, castle, scenery, bridge, 225; singularity of the view, a spot for self-destruction, 226; cascades, 227.
Lye, Edward, author of the Saxon Dictionary, 126.
Lyme Regis, Dorset, its singular situation, population, history, 527; anecdote concerning the Spanish Armada, ib. (note;) improvement suggested, history during the Civil Wars, 528; siege, ib. (note;) arrival of the Duke of Monmouth, 529; sets up his standard, 530; defeated, immoderate conduct of government, 531; execution of the delinquents, 532; adulation of court publications, cruel persecution of William Hewling, ib. (notes;) twelve persons executed here, made a borough, 533; charters of incorporation, 534; its distresses, corporation, members of parliament, church, public buildings, Cobb, 535; particularly described, 526.
Lyme river, its rise, 527.

M

Maiden Castle, Dorset, described, 345; supposed a British fortress, 347.
Mamhead, Dorset, a seat, history of its possessors, 98; description of the grounds, 99.
Marlborough, John Churchill, Duke of, anecdotes of his life, 315-317.
Maridge, Devon, a mansion belonging to the Taylor family, 135.
Maristow, Devon, a seat, its beauties, 215.
Marnhull, Dorset, Hussey the painter born there, 457.
Maumbury Amphitheatre, Dorset, described, 341.
Mayne, Jasper, anecdotes of, 243.
Melbury Samford, Dorset, remarkable for its church and inscriptions, 508. Mansion-house of the Strangeways, described, fine prospect, 509; apartments, 510.
Melcombe Bingham, Dorset, account of, 484.
Melcombe Regis, Dorset, communicates with Weymouth by a bridge, 351; manor, 353. See *Weymouth*.
Membland, Dorset, a mansion, 136.
Membury Castle, Devon, views from, history of the manor, 315.
Milbourne St. Andrew, Dorset, an ancient manor, its history, 477; mansion-house, church, 478.

Milton,

Digitized by Google

Milton, Dorset, a large parish, account of, 484; formerly a market-town, described, 487.
Milton Abbey, a seat, history of the abbey, 484; the house described, pictures, *abbey church*, 485; monuments, 486.
MODBURY, Devon, an ancient borough town, number of houses and inhabitants, trade, 131; church, monument, family of Champernoune, anecdote concerning, 132; government, priory, 133.
MONUMENTS, Exeter Cathedral, 70; Kenton, 97; King's Teignton, 108; Teignmouth, 110; Haccombe, 112; Berry Pomeroy, 123; Modbury, 132; Yealmpton, 137; Bere Ferris, 214; Buckland Monachorum, 215; Lamerton, 228; Tiverton, 290; Ottory St. Mary, 305; Bicton, 311; Colyton, 314; Ford Abbey, 320; Dorchester, 335-337; Poole, 412; Wimborne Minster, 420-423; More Critchell, 433; Cranborne, 446; Sherborne, 505; Melbury Samford, 508; Rampisham, 510; Bridport, 519; Beminster, 521.
More Critchell, 431; church, monuments, 438.
More Critchell, a seat, described, 431.
MORETON-HAMPSTEAD, Devon, its situation, government, population, dialect, 236.
Morice Town, Devon, 186.
Moridunum, Devon, a Roman station, 299. See *Hembury*, and *Seaton*.
Morton, Cardinal, anecdotes of, 477.
Morwell House, Devon, a hunting seat of the abbots of Tavistock, 229. Rock, views from, 223.
Mothecombe, Devon, an estate belonging to Mr Legassicke, a remarkable phenomenon at the mouth of the harbour, 136.
Mount Edgcumbe, Devon, a seat of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, described, 187; paintings, situation, grounds, 188; block house, 89; history of the estate, 191.
Mushroom, remarkable, 403.

N

Nettlecomb Fort, Dorset, encampment, described, 483.
Newhouse, Devon, described, 99; belonging to the Oxenham family, 100; superstitions concerning the *white-breasted bird*, ib.
NEWTON BUSHEL and NEWTON ABBOT, Devon, 116.
Nine Barrow Down, Dorset, described, prospects from it, 400.
Northam Barrows, Devon, 261.
Northcote, James, R. A. some account of, 144.
Nottington, Dorset, dissertation on a mineral spring at, 350.
Nutwell, the seat of Lord Heathfield, scenery, 306.

O

OAKHAMPTON, Devon, an ancient town, its situation, history, castle, 239; ruins, 240; park, church, corporation, trade, members, 241; population, 242.
Otterton, Devon, priory there, nunnery, 312.
OTTORY ST. MARY, Devon, history of the manor, 302; situation, church described, 303; monuments, Mr. Sherman, population, Sir Walter Raleigh's house, Oliver Cromwell's convention room, 304; school-house, Coleridge the Poet, 305.
Orton House, a seat, its beauties described, 97; pictures, manuscripts, 98.

P

Pamphill, Dorset, antiquities found there, 416.
Parnham, Dorset, a seat, described, hall, portraits, 528.
Pavement, tesselated, at Frampton, described, 512-524.
Pebbles, bank of, at Portland, 557; presumed cause, 558; (note.)
Petre, Sir William, anecdotes of, &c.
PICTURES, by Artois, Wootton, Snyders, Ryndael, Return of Charles II. by Vandervelde, Van Goyen, Ryndael, Claude, Cuyp, Wouvermans, Rembrandt, 85; Rubens, 93; Wilson, Marlow, Peters, 94; *Teniers*, Both, Vandyck, 95; Payne, Du Croiz, C. Jansen, by Sir P. Lely, 104; Vandervelde, Vanbloom, 107; Corregio, Salvator Rosa, Vandyck, 143; Titian, Northcote, &c. 144; Sir P. Lely, Sir J. *Reynolds*, 188. Vandyck, Reynolds, Woovermans, Berghem, 236. Davis, Home, 301; Kneller, *Reynolds*, 349; Vandyck, Lely, Berghem, Kneller, 415; Stubbs, 464; Raphael, Titian, Claude, Bassan, 465. *Pidlicton*

Piddleton, Dorset, a large parish, church, monuments, 479-480.
Pillesdon Pen, Dorset, a remarkable high hill, strong entrenchment, its form, proverb explained, 525.
Pimpern Maze, Dorset, described, 463.
Pitt, Rev. Christopher, account of, 471.
Pixies, poetical description of, by Coleridge, 103.
PLYMOUTH, Devon, a town of considerable antiquity, originally inhabited by fishermen, etymology of its name, 145; its history, 146 160; narrative of the siege, 150-158, (note;) government, 159; fortifications, prospects from them, 160; St. Nicholas's Isle, victualling office, 161; process of baking, 161-163. (note;) situation of the town, 162; pilchard fishery, trade, pier, churches, chapels, theatre, 163; guildhall, markets, schools, population, literary societies, Admiral Sir John Hawkins, and Mr. Glanville, born here.
Plymouth Dock.—See Dock.
Plymstock, Devon, once belonged to Tavistock Abbey, Risdon's account of, 138.
PLYMPTON, Devon, a stannary and market-town, account of the honour, ruins of the castle, 138; government, streets, church, free-school, guildhall, pictures, Sir Joshua Reynolds, 139.
Plympton St. Mary, Devon, had formerly a college founded by the Saxon Kings, refounded by Bishop Warlewast, 142.
Pokeswell, Dorset, Druidical circle at, 362.
POOLE, Dorset, stands on a peninsula, on the borders of a desolate heath, streets meanly built, custom-house, town dues, 409; fortifications insignificant, history of the manor, an ancient borough, made a free town, 410; government, officers, the town rose from the ruins of Wareham, Henry, Earl of Richmond, driven here by a storm, 411; population, church, monuments, buildings, market-house, town-hall, wool-house, bay, 412; oyster fishery, 413; harbour, trade, court of admiralty, tide, 414; eminent persons born here, 415.
PORTLAND, ISLE OF, its description, etymology of its name, history, castle taken by stratagem, 546; descent of its manor, 547; its agriculture, castle, 548; rocks, Bow and Arrow Castle, 549; light-houses, 550; Cave Hole, stone quarries described, 551-553; manners of the natives, curious custom relative to courtship and marriage, 554-556; remarkable changes at, 556; its fossils, 557; Chesil Bank described, 557-559; channel dangerous to shipping, 559-560.
Portland-stone, when brought into use, 553, (note.)
PORTRAITS, Sir R. and Lady Palk, W. H. Vansittart, General Lawrence, 85; General Monk, E. W Montague, 94; Henrietta Maria, Charles II. 95; Sir N. Martyn, by Sir P. Lely, 98; Sibreets, the Adulterous Woman, by Titian, 104; Vandyck, Guido, Van Lint, Gentileschi, 105; Sir Joshua Reynolds, 139, 143; Marquis of Granby, Bolingbroke family, ib. Sir T Parker, Queen Elizabeth, Charles XII. Marquis of Lansdown, Mrs. Abingdon, Lord Grantham, Isaac Barrè, Lord Pelham, Sir Hyde Parker, 144; first Earl of Sandwich, his Lady, Sir Richard Edgcumbe, Lords Edgcumbe, Margaret Edgcumbe, Charles I. Duke of Monmouth, Charles II. James II. Prince Rupert, William III. 188; Sir F. Drake, 215; Charles I. Mr. and Mrs. Fulford, 237; George I. II III. 293; Marquis Cornwallis, G. Baker. Esq. 301; Charles II. William and Mary, Duke Schomberg, Sir Edward Wilmot, 349; Sir Kenelm Digby, 488; Cromwell, Earl of Essex, 523.
Poundbury Camp, Dorset, described, 345.
Pound House, why so called, its use, 15.
Powderham Castle, Devon, ancient seat of the family of Courtenay, 88; its history, 89; description of the house and pictures, 93-95; grounds, and romantic views, 95.
Prior, Matthew, anecdotes of his life, 426, *et seq.*
Purbeck, Isle of, properly a peninsula, its soil, face of the island, its history and description, 383; the peculiarities

Digitized by Google

peculiarities of its stone, government, 384.

Q

Quarries of stone at Portland, described, 553
Quivil, Bishop, a founder of Exeter Cathedral, 58-60.

R

Raleigh, Sir Walter, anecdotes of his life, 308-311.
Rampisham, Dorset, its ancient church, monuments, cross, 510; tessellated pavement, 511.
Reynolds, Sir Joshua, anecdotes of him, 139-141; lines on him by Goldsmith, *ib.*
Rougemont Castle, Exeter, its ruins described, 73; its history, 74.
Russell, John, the founder of his family's fortune, 514.
Russell, Rev. Thomas, anecdotes of, 523.
Ryves, Rev. Bruno, Dean of Windsor, anecdotes of, 470.
Ryves, Eliza, anecdotes of her, 472, (note.)
Ryves, George, 470.
Ryves, John, Archdeacon of Bucks, 472.
Ryves, Sir Thomas, anecdotes of, 472.

S

Sagitary, Dr. Frederick, 472.
Saltram, Devon. a seat, its beautiful situation and views, the largest mansion in the county. described, pictures, 143; improvements, 144; dry dock in Catwater Bay, 145.
Sampford-Peverel, Devon, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, resided here, 296.
Seaton, Devon, honey ditches, 313; population, 314.
SHAFTESBURY, Dorset, of remote origin, supposed the Caer Palladwr of the Britons, known to the Romans, its Saxon history, 448; history of the manor, monastery, 449; suppression, antiquities found there, 450; hospital of St. John, churches, 451; described, 452; its situation, air, population, castle, hill, an ancient borough, its government, 453; instances of venality, 454; destitute of springs, customs, 455.
Shag's Heath, Dorset, the Duke of Monmouth's retreat, account of his surrender, 436.
Shaldon, Devon, hamlet, chapel, 111.
Sharpham, Devon, a seat, account of, 126.
Shebbeare, Dr. John, anecdotes of, 261.
SHERBORNE, Dorset, its pleasant situation, of remote antiquity, its ecclesiastical history, 488; account of the manor, 489; instances of rapacity, 490-496, (note;) history of the town, 497; trade, population, castle, 498-502; siege, 500; assizes, foundation of the Revolution laid here, vineyards, church, 503; described, 504; monuments, 505; remains of antiquity, free-school, alms-house, 506; conduit, 507.
Sherborne Lodge, seat of the Earl of Digby, described, 487, pictures, park, 488.
Shilston, Devon, an ancient seat belonging to Mr. Savery, 135.
Shute House, principal seat of Sir W. de la Pole, described, 317.
SIDMOUTH, Devon, a small market-town, its situation, 312; the harbour choaked up, a bathing place, population, scenery on the coast, 313.
Skait's Hole, Devon, described, 227.
Skeletons, several discovered at Corton, Dorset, 545.
Slapton Lea, Devon, a remarkable lake, its properties, 130.
Smedmore, account of coal money there, 403.
SOUTH-HAMS, termed the Garden of Devonshire, its boundaries, area, strikingly diversified and romantic, produce, cyder, 9; butter, cattle, nature of its culture, 10.
SOUTH-MOULTON, Devon, pleasantly situated on an eminence, history of the manor, government, formerly the see of a suffragan bishop, church, guildhall, market-place, 276; trade, free-school, population, 277.
Sprat, Rev. Thomas, Bishop of Rochester, anecdotes of him, 522.
Spetisbury Rings, Dorset, an encampment, described, 474.
STALBRIDGE, Devon, anciently belonged to the abbey of Sherborne, situation, 460; population, cross, 461.
Stapledon, Bishop, a benefactor to Exeter Cathedral, 61; his shocking death, ib.

Digitized by Google

Stillingfleet, Edward, Bishop of Worcester, anecdotes of, 446.
Stonehouse, Devon, long room, marine barracks, bridge, 165.
Stowborough, Dorset, formerly governed by a Mayor, 384; account of King-Barrow, 385.
Stowford, Devon, a seat, fine view from, 136.
Strange, Mr. John, his patriotic humanity, 259.
Stucley, Thomas, anecdotes of, 260.
Studland, forms a boundary to Poole harbour, ancient remains, 407.
STURMINSTER-NEWTON CASTLE, Dorset, supposed the *Anicetes* of the Romans, castle, history of the manor, 461; population, 462.
Sturt, Charles, Esq. anecdote of his wonderful deliverance, 431.
Swanwich, Dorset, its situation, Danish fleet wrecked here, 404; buildings, church, a very old building, a herring fishery established here, its principal importance derived from stone quarries, 405; the various sorts described, population, 406.
Sydenham, Dr. anecdotes of his life, 516.

T

Tamar, river, beautiful views on, 209
Tarent Crawford, Dorset, account of the ancient nunnery there, 430.
TAVISTOCK, Devon, anciently the manor of Orgar, Duke of Devonshire, 217; Risdon's account of, ib (note;) abbey, its history, 218; remains, 219; town, its situation and description, streets, church, monuments, gigantic bones, 219; Saxon school, early printing, government, population, famous men born here, 220-223.
Tawstock, Devon, the seat of Sir Bourchier Wray, Bart. its stately situation, the village remarkable for its manor and church, 262; monuments, history of the manor, 263.
TEIGNMOUTH, Devon, its situation, names, divisions, manor, government, a place of remote antiquity, burnt by the French, 109; one of the most fashionable watering-places, public rooms, theatre, promenade, views, church, monumental inscription, 110; trade, market, salmon, local regulations, 111.
Teignmouth, East, Devon, church, its early architecture, 111.
Teignton, King's, Devon, an unhealthy village, remarkable monument, 108.
Teignton Bishop's, the church of Saxon architecture, 108.
Termolus, Devon, a Roman station, 277.
Thompson, William, his bravery, 415.
Thornhill, Sir James, anecdotes of his life, 361.
TIVERTON, Devon, its etymology, history, 281; castle, 282; injured by pestilence and fire, recovers itself, 283-284; incorporation, 284; account of another great fire, 285; trade, compass and situation of the town, 286; castle described, 287; its history, 288, *et seq.* church. 289; monuments, painting, St George's chapel, 290; grammar school, 291; free English school, charitable bequests, town house, bank, market house, 293; poor house, inhabitants sociable, compass of the parish, 293-294.
Tolley, David, account of, 131.
TOPSHAM, Devon, a maritime town, manor, strand, quay, trade, population, church, prospect, 306.
Tor Abbey, Devon, a seat, finely situated, parts of the abbey still remaining, chapel ornamented with pictures, foundation of the abbey, 114; origin of Premonstre, ib. (note,) cavern, 115.
Torbay, Devon, its general form, William III. landed here, 115.
Torquay, Devon, a pleasant watering-place, buildings good, scenery fine, Kent's Hole described, 212.
Tors, attributed to druidical origin, some of them described, 229-234.
TORRINGTON, Devon, ancient history of, situation, castle, government, buildings, 244; trade, alms-houses, charity-school. population, Margaret Countess of Richmond resided here, views, 245.
TOTNESS, Devon, one of the most ancient towns in the kingdom, its situation fine, 123; account of the castle and manor, 124; incorporation of government, church, population, 125. Mr. Lye, author of the Saxon dictionary, and Dr. Kennicott, born here.
Towers, Rev. Dr. anecdotes of, 507.
Turberville,

Digitized by Google

Turberville, James, Bishop of Exeter, 477.
Turberville House, Dorset, account of, 476.
Traine, Devon, near Modbury, a mansion belonging to the Swete family, 134.
Trendle Hill, Dorset, description of the gigantic chalk figure, 483

U

Ugbrook, Devon, the seat of Lord Clifford, one of the most enchanting spots in Devon, the mansion described, 104; pictures, ib. extract from a descriptive poem, 105; chapel and library, ib. grounds and prospects, 106; history of the family.

V

Valley of Stones, Devon, curious account of, 273.
Via Iceniana, its progress, 447.
Venville money, its meaning, 7.

W

Wake, Edward, account of, 473.
Wake, William, Archbishop of Canterbury, anecdotes of, 471.
Wake, Rev. William, rector of Wareham, his sufferings during the Civil Wars, 382.
WAREHAM, Dorset, situated on a peninsula, appears to have been a British town, etymology of its name, a Roman station, 375; account of under the Saxons and Danes, 376; desolated by the latter, account of from the reign of William I. calamity by fire, 377; history of the manor, its custom, 378; gardens, anciently a borough, government, right of election, 379; churches, Hutchins's monument, public buildings, singular house in the market-place, priory, 380; Castle Close, free-school, alms-house, bridge, port, 381; its clay, population, eminent persons born here, 382.
Warleigh, Devon, account of the mansion, 213.
Werrington, Devon, a seat of the Duke of Northumberland; its history, 342.
WEYMOUTH, Dorset, a fashionable watering-place, the site known to the Romans, account of, under the Saxons, history, 351; manor, how descended, 352; jointly with Melcombe made a borough, 353; government. Leland's description, 354; by Coker, 355; its decay and revival, patronized by the Royal family, 357; esplanade, bay, observations on sea-water, 358; public amusements, new buildings, royal assembly room, theatre, 359; bridge, views from the town, libraries, forts, 360; church, altar-piece, ruins of the Dominican priory, meeting-houses, population, 361.
Wheler, Rev. Maurice, the first publisher of the Oxford almanacks, 437.
White-breasted bird, superstition concerning, 100.
White Hart Forest, Dorset, 524.
Whyddon Park, Devon, its situation, a royalty, 238.
Widow's House, near Ford, Devon, curious qualifications to be possessed by those who apply for the benefit, 217.
Williams, Sir John, rebuilder of St. Peter's church, Dorchester, 335.
Willis, Browne, Esq. anecdotes of him, 473.
WIMBORNE MINSTER, Devon. of high antiquity, its situation, the Vindogladia of the Romans, etymology, its Saxon history, 416; not uniform in streets or buildings, little trade, nunnery, monastery, history since the Dissolution, 417; its present government, and revenue, *Church* of Saxon architecture, 418; *history* of the Saxon and Gothic arch, ib. (note;) dimensions and description of the building, 419; monuments, 420-423; splendor of its altars, and reliques, 423; public buildings, government, Lepers *hospital*, 424; leprosy brought from Egypt, ib. (note;) Marchioness of Exeter's hospital, 426; *eminent persons born here*, ib. *et seq.*
Wimborne St. Giles, Dorset, the birthplace of Maurice *Wheler*, *history* of the manor, 437; house described, 444.
Wimpston, Devon, a considerable manor, formerly belonging to the Fortescues, now to Mr. Treby, 134.

Digitized by Google

Winford Eagle, Dorset, the birth-place of Dr. Sydenham, 515.
Winifrid, Archbishop of Mentz, anecdotes of, 281
Winstanley, Henry, anecdotes of, a curious mechanic, 192, (note.)
Winterbourne Abbas, Dorset, its druidical circle described, 514.
Winterbourne Herringstone, Dorset, a seat, history of the manor, the house described, pictures, 349; painted window, 350.
Witches, relation concerning, 257.
Woodbury Castle, Devon, beautiful prospect from, 312.
Woodbury Hill, Dorset, intrenchment on, 475; described, large fair there, 476.
Woodlands, Dorset, Mr. Hastings's seat; antiquities found at, 436.
Wolf, the, an inhabitant of Devonshire in the time of Queen Elizabeth, 233, (note.)
Wolford Lodge, Devon, a seat, description of the house and grounds, 299.
Wolveton House, Dorset, the ancient mansion of the Trenchard family, an object of curiosity, the fortune of the Russell family commenced here, 514.

Y

Yealmpton, Devon, an ancient village, the residence of the Saxon King Ethelwold, monument in the churchyard, 137.
Yeo-Vale, Devon, an ancient seat, tomb in the chapel, 251.

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

Digitized by Google

Corrections and Additions to Vol. IV.

Page 20, line 18, *dele* male.

P. 29, l. 19, *for* Bickerton, *read* Bickington.

P. 30, l. 11, *after* "great quantities," *read* sixteen or seventeen thousand tons are annually sent from Teignmouth, to supply the pipe manufactories of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland, &c. and the potteries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland, Glasgow, and other places.

Same p. l. 17, *for* uniformly, *read* generally.

P. 40, l. 11, *after* "per ton," *insert*, the price is now from 4l. to 12l. 12s. per ton; but its value is continually fluctuating.

P. 42, l. 7, *for* Totness, *read* Ashburton.

P. 43, note, l. 3, *for* Herodituſ, *read* Herodotus.

Same p. note, l. 6, *for* instan vestiæ, *read* instar Bestiæ.

P. 64, l. 18, *for* from, *read* to.

P. 111, l. 8, *for* 100, *read* 400.

Same p. l. 10, *after* "by a canal," *dele* and, and *insert*, about one-fifth of the whole quantity raised is "dug on the estate," &c.

P. 179, l. 15, *read* To the town of Dock belongs one church, &c.

P. 245, l. 9, *for* Mary, *read* Margaret.

P. 336, l. 10, *for* £, *read* £.

P. 546, l. 17, *for* Gerela, *read* Gereſa.

Printed by Thomas Maiden, Sherbourne-Lane, Lombard-Street.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

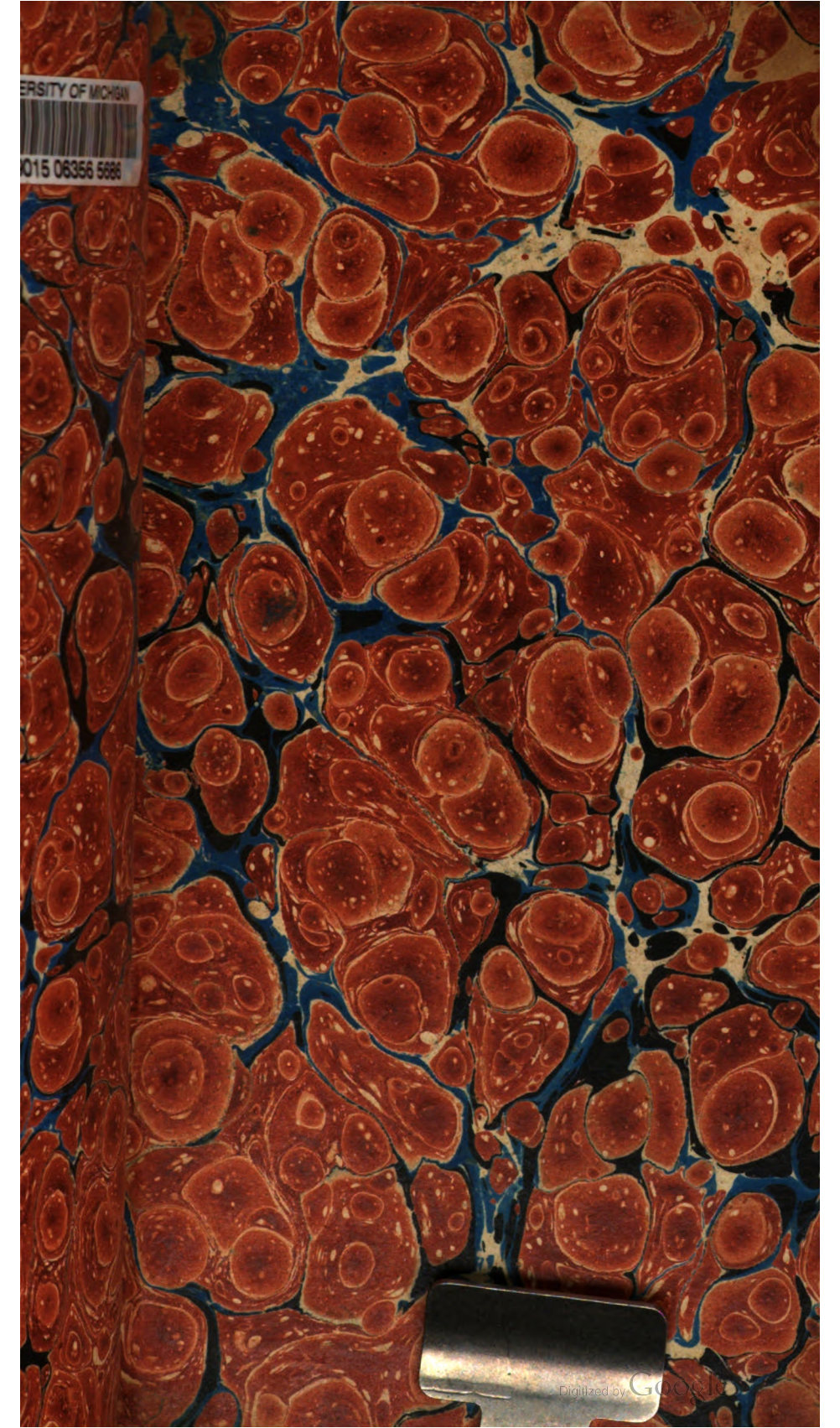
Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
3 9015 06356 5686


ERSITY OF MICHIGAN
015 06356 5686
Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google